

Life is not a bowl of applesauce
'Sapphistication' columnist Beth Elliott
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Psycho killers:
Filmmaker Arthur Dong's
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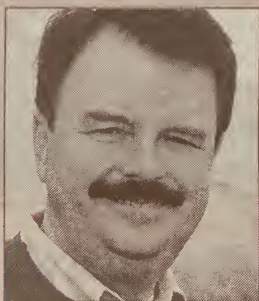
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Newly-elected Richard Gordon.

Gay candidate wins seat in San Mateo

by Mike Salinas

Richard Gordon won the Tuesday, April 8 special election for the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, earning a decisive 41 percent of the vote in the seven-way non-partisan race to replace Ted Lempert, who was elected to the State Assembly last year.

An openly gay two-term member of the San Mateo Board of Education, Gordon is executive director of Youth and Family Assistance (YFA), a non-profit agency that provides a wide range of services to homeless youth. Among his numerous civic activities, he is president-elect of the Redwood City Chamber of Commerce, co-chair of the San Mateo County Task Force on Violent Crime Against Women, and a member of the San Mateo County Criminal Justice Council.

Earlier this year Gordon told the *Bay Area Reporter* he would make it a top priority to strengthen the county's AIDS program, and pointed out that such a move could mean a channeling of more local money, as well as federal and state funds, into the effort to deal with the problem of HIV. He also hoped to increase the efforts to battle breast cancer.

He also said he would find it "worthwhile to work out programs to deal with domestic violence in gay households," and to develop gay adoption and parenting programs in San Mateo County.

Gordon was supported by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, the Bay Area Non-Partisan Alliance, and BAYMEC (Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee) — but not by the Log Cabin Republican Club. The group of gay Republicans backed Denise de Ville in the race. She came in third.

"Richard's decisive victory is a real tribute to the fairmindedness of San Mateo's voters," said Victory Fund Political Director Kathleen DeBold. "They have a lot to teach the rest of America about judging political candidates on their qualifications rather than their sexual orientation." ▼

No more coffee in the Castro? Supes to consider 18-month moratorium

by Cynthia Laird

The proliferation of coffeehouses and juice bars in the Castro and Upper Market areas has led a Board of Supervisors committee to pass an 18-month moratorium on the businesses, so that a long-term plan can be developed in the area. The full board is expected to consider the matter this Monday, April 14.

Supervisor Leslie Katz called for the moratorium at the request of several community-based organizations at the Thursday, April 3 hearing. She said that currently, the Castro and other neighborhood commercial districts have moratoriums on the number of establishments serving food and beverages. She added that a few years ago, certain types of food and beverage establishments, such as coffeehouses and juice bars, were exempted from this limitation.

"The result of this, at least in the Castro and Upper Market neighborhoods, has been an influx of coffeehouses and juice bars replacing non-food and beverage businesses such as bookstores, since food establishments are often willing and able to pay higher rents," Katz said at the hearing.

No one spoke for or against the proposed moratorium at the brief hearing on the issue.

Members of the Castro Area Planning and Action (CAPA) group said they support the proposed moratorium as a means of giving the group more time to develop a comprehensive, long-range plan.

"We're not against coffeehouses," CAPA moderator Linton Stables told the *B.A.R.* "We are interested in gaining time."

Stables said CAPA is planning to take the lead on planning with input from all the other neighborhood groups. Stables said he's under the impression city funds for a comprehensive plan will be available, and that the Castro is one area targeted for the funds.

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Decaffeinated Castro: Pasqua's on 18th St. in the hood.

Jane Philomeni/Citiland

Berkeley needle exchange wins grant, but state won't release funds

by Cynthia Laird

The Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution (NEED) program in Berkeley that has provided a volunteer-run syringe exchange program for the last seven years was awarded a \$10,000 grant last month, but state officials have blocked the group from receiving the funds since March

27. A meeting on Tuesday, April 8 did not change that decision.

Although NEED members said the grant was of federal funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state officials disputed that claim. Harold Rassmusson, chief of HIV/AIDS prevention for the state, told the *B.A.R.* that the grant was not from the CDC.

When pressed, however, Rassmusson ac-

knowledgeed some of the grant funds did come from federal sources. "It's a mixture of funds. I think the testing money is federal. Some of it [the money] might have been federal."

William Rogers, Berkeley's HIV/AIDS program director, had a meeting with Rassmusson April 8 to discuss the issue. City officials, including Mayor Shirley Dean, have pledged to fight for the NEED grant. City health offi-

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Berkeley's NEED funds were frozen thanks to Pete Wilson and Dan Lungren.

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Proposed domestic partner changes killed

by Dennis Conkin

A controversial proposed amendment to San Francisco's domestic partners law, which would have allowed companies to exclude unmarried heterosexual couples from the benefit, is dead after a flurry of objections by Supervisor Tom Ammiano.

Under terms of the city's domestic partner ordinance, which goes into effect on June 1, companies that do business with the city

must provide the same benefits to their workers' registered domestic partners that they offer to married couples.

A proposal by Supervisor Leslie Katz that would let contractors set up their own registries, and deny the benefit to heterosexual couples, was quickly dropped after Ammiano said he would never support the effort to weaken the measure.

Supervisor Susan Leal, who also supported the measure, acknowledged that the proposal was dead.

The amendment - which

would have allowed companies to provide the benefit to gays only, for a three-year period - was heavily lobbied for by Joyce Newstadt, a lobbyist for the Committee on Jobs.

Newstadt is a onetime key aide to former mayoral candidate and U.S. Assistant Housing Secretary Roberta Achtenberg, who now works for the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Achtenberg was not available for comment.

"They say you should only speak good of the dead," Ammiano quipped. "It's dead. Good." ▼

Gay Latino John Lira appointed to telecom panel

by Cynthia Laird

Mayor Willie Brown has appointed openly gay Latino John Lira to serve on the city's new Telecommunications Commission. Lira is one of five members of the commission, which held its first meeting March 31.

Commission members' terms are staggered; Lira's expires in July, 2000. The city charter was modified to create the commission, Lira said, and Supervisor Sue Bierman is credited with starting the effort to create it.

"We deal with all issues of telecommunications, including the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, cable franchises, and telephone deregulation," Lira told the B.A.R., adding the group will make recommendations to city departments and the Board of Supervisors about cable TV and other issues.

Lira said he sought out the commission post, as it fits right into his business and computer

software background. For more than 15 years, he has worked in technical, marketing, and management positions in high tech companies. He has also been a self-employed small business owner.

He said one reason he wanted to be on the commission was because he feels it's important to have the gay and Latino communities represented. He also wants the public in general to have a voice on telecommunications issues.

"I want to make sure to give the public a voice in critical issues, such as access to public [cable] channels," Lira explained. "For myself, I want to give a voice to the public, and access to the public, and access to broadcast so that our voices will be heard."

A San Francisco resident since 1964, Lira is a graduate of Lowell High School and City College. He went on to earn bachelor of science and master of science degrees from San Jose State University.

He's also used his high tech ex-

perience to create the Hispanic Computing Association and the Hispanic On-Line Access. One of his goals is to open up communication links to the future for all communities, and being appointed to the commission is one step in that process.

Last year, Lira ran unsuccessfully for a seat on the San Francisco Community College District Board of Trustees. Despite the loss, he is still committed to public service, and said he encourages residents to contact him about telecommunications issues now that he's on the commission. He also said the public is welcome to attend commission meetings. ▼

The Telecommunications Commission's next meeting will be Monday, April 21 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 401 Van Ness Avenue. Lira said people can call him at (415) 239-2221 or e-mail him at jlira@sf-events.com with issues of concern to the commission.

Coffee in Castro

◀ page 1

Katz said that when the moratorium expires, it is her hope that sufficient community input will have taken place so that a decision can be made regarding whether the limitations on food and beverage establishments should continue, and whether coffeehouses and juice bars should be exempt from those requirements or become permanently part of them.

In a related matter, CAPA has developed recommendations for Castro Street and the Harvey Milk Plaza that incorporate some suggestions for immediate improvements, as well as long-range plans for major changes. Phil Siegel of CAPA said a four-page brochure is available to anyone who wants it.

The outlines in the plan were developed by a group of architects, city planners, representatives from city departments, and landscape designers, along with neighborhood leaders who at-

tended a day-long workshop, Siegel said. ▼

For a free copy of the CAPA brochure, send a SASE to: 584 Castro St., #169, San Francisco, CA 94114-2588. CAPA's next meeting is Thursday, April 10 (tonight) at 7:30 p.m. at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 150 Collingwood Street. For more information, call (415) 522-1221.

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49ers President Carmen Policy announces the team's historic first while (left) Supes Katz and Ammiano look on.

49ers unveil domestic partners policy

by Jim Provenzano

The San Francisco 49ers held a press conference Monday, April 7 to announce the establishment of a domestic partners policy covering the football team's entire organization. It is the first professional sports team in the country to enact such a policy.

"It shall be the policy of the San Francisco 49ers that domestic partners shall be eligible for all benefits offered by the team to married couples," according to a 49ers press statement. "These shall include medical insurance, retirement benefits, disability, incentives, bereavement leave, parental and family leave, use of team facilities, and all other team discounts, benefits, and entitlements."

City law requires the 49ers organization to comply with municipal anti-discrimination laws anyway: Supervisors Leslie Katz and Tom Ammiano co-authored legislation requiring any organization doing business with the city of San Francisco to comply with their domestic partners policy. Under that legislation, organizations will be required to comply by June 1, except for companies that get extensions of up to three years.

At the Monday morning press

conference outside the temporary offices of City Hall, 49ers President Carmen Policy took questions as minions distributed press statements saying the organization is voluntarily complying to set an example for other sports franchises and businesses. But with so many "Build the Stadium, Create the Jobs!" posters surrounding Policy, many in attendance saw the announcement as merely a ruse to gain support for the proposed stadium bond initiative, which would cost city taxpayers in excess of \$100 million.

The stadium issue has become one of the most controversial issues in the Bay Area. Charges and countercharges have been flying, including allegations that city officials are already relaxing environmental impact regulations and that project estimators are already making plans to evict residents of the China Basin/Bayview-Hunter's Point area, where the stadium is to be located.

Several of the hired hands and flacks representing the stadium deal are gay, including well-known politico Jack Davis, and Supervisor Carole Migden's former aide Michael Colbruno, which may or may not explain why so many major lesbian and gay elected officials support the deal, despite the controversy.

"The 49ers' action means they

know the true meaning of 'team spirit' by including all families in their benefit and entitlement programs, regardless of sexual orientation," Migden said in a prepared statement.

Some critics aren't so sure, and see the domestic policy announcement as a ploy to woo gay and lesbian voters. One reporter at the press conference pointed out to Policy that "you're doing nothing more than you are required by the city, you don't have a choice, and you haven't done it until two months before the election."

"Why should any of us be im-

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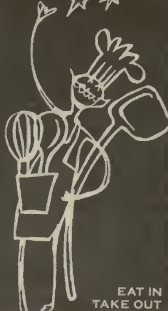
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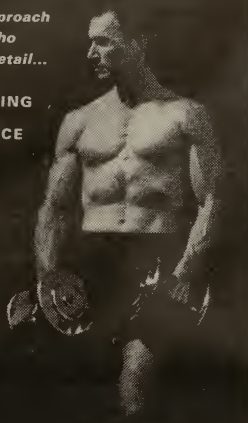
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U.S. court upholds Eugene Lumpkin firing

by Dennis Conkin

The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld a lower court's decision that former Mayor Frank Jordan acted appropriately by firing a member of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission in 1993 for making anti-gay remarks.

The court ruled Thursday, April 3 that neither the First Amendment nor the Religious Freedom Restoration Act required San Francisco to tolerate commission members who made public statements contrary to the commission's purpose of trying to eliminate prejudice and discrimination.

Jordan fired the Rev. Eugene Lumpkin, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, after Lumpkin said on a local television show he supported Biblical injunctions that called for executing homosexuals. Some weeks earlier the commissioner had said he believed homosexuality was "an



Rev. Eugene Lumpkin

abomination" and that AIDS was a punishment from God to gay men for their sexual immorality.

Jordan had resisted pressure to remove Lumpkin from the commission at that time, citing free speech considerations, but said after Lumpkin's television appear-

ance that his comments crossed the free speech line and advocated violence, making him unfit to serve.

Lumpkin sued over his firing, saying his First Amendment rights had been violated. His legal battle initially received the support of several prominent pastors, but he quickly lost the support of mainstream African-American religious leaders after he retained the right-wing Rutherford Institute to represent him.

In Thursday's ruling, the court said Lumpkin's statements were not simply hostile to the commission's charge, but were at war with it.

In the opinion, Judge William Norris wrote, "When Rev. Lumpkin speaks as a private citizen, he has every right to preach that homosexuality is a sin...but the First Amendment does not assure him job security when he preaches homophobia while serving as a city official."

Lumpkin's attorney said he is considering a further appeal. ▽

Five community center design finalists selected

Two chances for public comments next week

by Cynthia Laird

The number of firms competing to design San Francisco's new lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community center has been narrowed from 31 teams to five in the first phase of the architecture contest sponsored by the Community Center Project (CCP).

In a related matter, the public will have two opportunities next week to hear an update on the planned center and to ask questions of the CCP's board of directors. The first public forum will be held Thursday, April 17. The second meeting will be Saturday, April 19, before the winning architecture firm is announced.

On Saturday, April 5, a nine-member jury composed of urban planners, local architects, academics, a citizen representing the neighborhood where the community center will be built, and a member of the CCP board selected the five finalists. The identity of the architects was unknown to the jury

until the winners were chosen, said Scott Shafer, CCP board member.

The community center is to be located at 1800-1810 Market Street at Octavia Street. The site includes a deteriorated three-story Victorian building, a low-rise structure, and a used car lot.

The finalists are:

- Gerson/Overstreet Architects and Robert Frear Architects, Inc. - Harry Overstreet has been princi-

pal architect for numerous public architecture projects in the Bay Area, including facilities for San Francisco State University, and the San Francisco and Oakland school districts.

• Kava Massih and Robin Levitt - Massih's experience encompasses numerous Bay Area projects, including the new Pyramid Brewery, the Emeryville Post Office, and a renovation of two clinics at Children's Hospital in Oakland.

- David Baker Associates and

The new center should reflect the spirit of the community.

Allied Architecture and Design - Baker's firm is internationally recognized for community-oriented buildings.

• Diane Davis and Neal Schwartz Design - Davis's design experience includes international high-rise, mixed-use projects, health care, high-end residential, and teaching institutions, including the San Francisco Art Institute. This is her first collaboration with Schwartz.

Schwartz's experience includes both international and national projects, including high-rise office buildings, medical teaching facilities, and the office of the president of the University of California.

• S. Jane Cee Architects and Peter Pfau Architecture - Cee worked with a large staff of designers, researchers, and others on the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. She also designed, with Kobe Ou Design, a 27-story office tower in Taipei, and oversaw design of the Moscow Theatre Arts Center.

Pfau's firm's experience includes the Swatch Olympic Pavil-

'The spirit of the community'

Shafer said the jury based its decision on five criteria: feasibility, functionality, relation to the neighborhood, creativity, and spirituality.

In terms of spirituality, Shafer told the B.A.R. that the CCP board wants the community center to be "a place that reflects the spirit of the community, where people feel welcome, not just an office building."

"A place that invites the full diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community."

CCP board member and juror Pat Martel said the competition produced outstanding designs.

"These teams represent a very impressive array of architecture talent. We now have five outstanding choices for the design of a community center that reflects its importance to our community," Martel said.

State clears gay man for SF Police Commission

by Dennis Conkin

A ruling by the state Alcohol and Beverage Control has cleared the way for the swearing-in of gay businessman Ed Petrillo to the San Francisco Police Commission. Petrillo was appointed March 27.

A district director for the Alcohol Beverage and Control authority had initially said the agency believed that Petrillo, owner of the Alta Plaza and Eleven, a popular South of Market restaurant, would be unable to accept the appointment because a state regulation forbids "law enforcement" officers from owning liquor licenses in their local jurisdictions.

"It's an administrative rule from the California Code of Regulations," Mike Tyrell, district director of the state agency, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It basically says that law enforcement officers are not to hold licenses."

Following a review of state codes, however, the state decided that a police commissioner is not a police officer, clearing the way for Petrillo's official swearing-in when Mayor Willie Brown gets back from China.

Commission president Pat Norman said there has never been a question in her mind about whether members of the commission are cops or not.

"We are civilians. We are the civilian oversight body for the police department," she said.

Norman said that although police commissioners carry badges of office, they are not trained or sworn peace officers, do not carry guns, and do not have police officers' arrest powers.

"Only the power of a citizen to arrest, the same as you have," she said.

According to Tyrell, the initial concern was because commissioners have policy and disciplinary powers over police officers and the chief of police.

'Some have problems'

The resolution blunts some political observers' criticism that the appointment reflected a disorganized, careless, or cynical mayoral administration.

Such claims were unfounded, according to Brown spokesman P.J. Johnston. "There are hundreds of commissioners appointed. Some are going to have problems," he said.

According to Johnston, Brown believes that anyone he recommends or appoints to serve on a commission or hold appointive office "has to vet out" for themselves and Brown whether there may be problems or conflicts of interest in connection with an appointment.

Petrillo was out of town and unavailable to comment on the controversy. His attorney did not return a *Bay Area Reporter* call for comment on the matter.

A member of the Film and Video Commission before his appointment to the Police Commission, Petrillo, 50, came to San Francisco in 1989. According to a news report published in the *San Francisco Examiner*, Petrillo, then treasurer of Yonkers Contracting of Yonkers, New York, was acquitted in a federal criminal

price-fixing case in 1988.

The \$192 million annual family business paid \$622,000 in a settlement agreement, and Petrillo was barred from company operations by the New York State Department of Transportation for a year. A civil suit in the case brought by state and local municipalities against Petrillo's company and others was later settled for an estimated \$2 million. Petrillo's interest in the firm was placed in a trust controlled by his brother.

The state's Fair Political Practices Commission also investigated Petrillo in 1995 over a \$1,500 cash contribution to Mayor Frank Jordan.

The cash was allegedly given to Jordan's wife, Wendy Faskin, despite regulations banning campaign contributions of more than \$100.

According to the *San Francisco Examiner*, Petrillo was not charged by the FPPC with wrongdoing. The FPPC declined to comment on the matter, saying it did not confirm or deny whether investigations were underway.

And while Petrillo and Mayor Brown were unavailable for comment, Jeff Sheehy, president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club, said that he thought concerns over the appointment were unfounded.

"He's a really good guy," Sheehy told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "And he's a member of the Milk Club."

'An asshole'

Petrillo was one of three appointments by Brown to the Commission to replace Commissioners John Kecker, Chloe Hewlett, and James Salinas, who all resigned in the aftermath of community outrage over their votes not to fire Mark Andaya, an officer who was suspended for 90 days for his role in failing to seek medical treatment for Aaron Williams, a suspect who later died in custody after being arrested.

Although the commission had earlier found that Andaya and other officers had not committed misconduct in their handling of Williams's violent arrest, the commissioners are expected to terminate Andaya on new charges that he had lied on an employment application about the extent of previous misconduct charges while he was an Oakland Police officer.

Norman was named commission president after Kecker resigned, but she is the subject of an effort by police union officials to remove her from hearing any disciplinary matter against Andaya.

The Police Officers Association alleged in court documents that in a meeting with POA officials, Norman called Andaya "an asshole" and recommended that he be fired.

A Superior Court Judge will rule on the POA motion shortly. ▼



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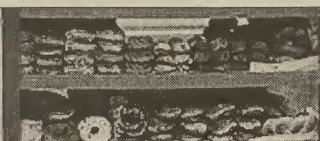
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OPEN FORUM

Tax forms and functions

A We have arrived at the Ides of April. This Tuesday, in case you'd forgotten, is Tax Day.

April 15 always gets us thinking about all the things America spends its tax dollars on, particularly when we know it isn't on us, and we have been told so unequivocally that we are not part of the American Family, Fabric, or Dream. We gays and lesbians will be sending off our checks to the IRS to keep this government running, but most of us will not be sharing in the returns, as our heterosexual friends and relatives will or can. We are infuriated by that unfairness, and somewhat sickened by the way right-wing legislators seem to enjoy adding insult to that injury.

Ever since the possibility of gender-neutral marriage appeared on the political horizon, lawmakers in Washington and Sacramento (and elsewhere, of course) have been proudly flaunting their bigotry and justifying the systemic unfairness. If pressed, they may acknowledge that gay and lesbian people contribute to the treasury like everyone else, but even that awareness isn't enough to change their belief that we don't deserve the pensions and benefits that the treasury is there to underwrite. And that's mean, in every sense of the word.

Some enemies of the community dismiss the foregoing argument as nothing more than an attempt by perverts to bleed the system, and those who make that claim are ignorant (or uncaring) of the poverty that affects so many American gay and lesbian people as they grow older. We can't even guess at the numbers of gay men and women who have nursed their lovers to the end, and then have found themselves ejected from their homes; denied the basic help that is available to every heterosexual spouse — no matter how unhappy or dysfunctional; and eventually left devastated and destitute in Skid Row rat traps. Or, all too frequently, on the streets themselves.

That's the injury. The insult comes from people like Clinton spokesperson Mike McCurry, who has said White House opposition to same-sex marriage is based on a need to "strengthen traditional families." It isn't bad enough that we are blamed for not being "traditional"; now we are expected to accept the blame for the inability of the average family to live up to the mythic idea? Phooey.

From taxation to representation, television-style: perhaps Ellen DeGeneris can explain to the country how demoralizing it is to be rejected and discriminated against, simply because of sexuality. We hope so, anyway, and we hope the whole coming out process hasn't just been a way to boost saggy ratings. DeGeneris has said she waited to announce that she, and not just her eponymous character, is a gay woman because she didn't want to be a spokesperson for the community. That's understandable; she already has a full-time job. Nevertheless, she has the job now, whether she wanted it or not.

It will be interesting to see what happens to the show, and to Ellen's career outside of the show. None of the early signs point to mass displeasure on the part of Middle America, which is a good thing. Still, that will change someday, and Ellen will go the way of *The Flip Wilson Show* (remember that?), and we hope its eventual cancellation won't be taken as some sort of referendum on gay TV characters and actors, any more than Flip's flop after a few years on the top of the heap could be construed as a rejection of African-Americans.

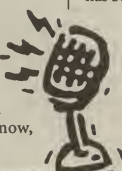
In the meantime, the advertising pull-out by longtime *Ellen* sponsors Johnson & Johnson, General Motors, and Chrysler makes it

very clear that those companies do not value gay dollars. The word we've been receiving on Chrysler over the past year or so has been consistently bad; this latest act of cowardice shows that it is not a friend in need or in deed, indeed. But then, it isn't the first time America has been shocked by a Chrysler bail-out.

Finally, is it prescient or just Pollyannaish to say it looks like the White House will take the problem of AIDS a little more seriously in the future? Sandy Thurman is another in a line of unexpected successors that Bill Clinton has named to the AIDS czar throne; and while she wasn't one of the people activists had hoped to see named, it is at least encouraging to see that

the AIDS Policy Office is being moved from its current locale — above a McDonalds hamburger joint — and into the Administration offices proper. From what we hear, activists aren't exactly welling up with optimism at the moment, but we hope she'll turn out to be a surprise.

We've printed her first words on the job, in which she does actually talk about how homophobia increases AIDS, in the space below. They're good words. We hope to see them followed by some good deeds. ▼



Editorial



A few words from the new AIDS Czar

remarks by Sandy Thurman upon her appointment as director of the Office of National AIDS Policy

Extraordinary recent advances in medical treatments have given us a reason for real, new hope to ending this plague. But as we all know, this is a crisis of monumental proportion, and it must be addressed and will take all of our vigor and energy to make progress. The epidemic is not over, and we must not and will not rest until HIV is eradicated.

Today I would like to ask all of those living with HIV and with AIDS, the community of caregivers and care providers, AIDS activists, local and national AIDS organizations, and all of the federal agencies to join with the president, the vice president, and with me in an even stronger partnership. Only by working together we will have a chance to successfully meet the challenges that this very complicated epidemic presents to us.

The president has given me his personal commitment to leadership in the fight against AIDS. And in turn, I offer the community my commitment to the efforts to develop vaccines, to find a cure, to stop the transmission of HIV, and to provide appropriate services and care to people who are

already infected. We will work to improve the level of services and housing for those most in need in our society, while assessing the implications of changes in social programs like welfare and Medicaid.

We will strive to support culturally-appropriate services and prevention messages to communities of color, to women, and to young gay men, where this epidemic is moving the fastest.

We will work to counteract the devastating effects that homophobia and that racism continue to have on this epidemic.

But as you all know, this is not work that is done in a vacuum by me or by those in Washington here. It is work done by the thousands of people that are dedicated and selfless in communities across the country who struggle day by day to make a difference in this epidemic. Our job here is to make certain that they have the tools to do their good work.

I am heartened that in that same spirit, the president has made a substantial effort to strengthen the Office of National AIDS Policy. We will be working to build an enhanced staff with a broad range of skills, and we will enlist those who best understand medical and treatment issues, pre-

vention and education, social programs, discrimination, and housing to share their expertise.

We have the highest level of access to the administration. This is another reflection of the president's and the vice president's commitment to our nation's war on HIV and AIDS.

This is not an epidemic of a few. This is an epidemic of us all. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have already lost their lives to AIDS. It has stolen some of our brightest and most talented friends and loved ones in the prime of their lives. And beyond our borders, millions of people struggle against the odds to live long enough to reap the benefits of a cure.

We are deeply aware of the responsibility that this administration has to all Americans who are living with HIV and AIDS and to those all around the world who turn to us for leadership and for hope. That is an awesome responsibility, which will demand that each of us work together in partnership to end this epidemic.

I look forward to that partnership, and appreciate this opportunity to offer whatever help I can to the president, to the nation, and to all of you who are working so valiantly on the front lines of this epidemic. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

The final bow

The audience waiting, lights dim, spotlights brighten, center stage stands Diana Ross. No, it's Leslie Ross, female impersonator. The performance is mesmerizing, the applause, the bow, the exit. Leslie Ross has taken her final bow. Lights seem dimmer, but the show will go on.

Look for a new star in heaven. Center stage stands Leslie Ross.

Donna Lisa Stewart
San Francisco

Sex in Bland Diego

Sleepy San Diego, where gay men's bathhouses are structured as "private health clubs," offers a different slant on San Franny's sex wars.

A certain neighborhood experienced "late-night noise, drugs, cruising, public sex, lewd acts..." So lesbian SD Councilmember Chris Kehoe held a public discussion for community members.

At this meeting, "Some thought it would be helpful to provide... bathhouse passes that would be good from 2-6 a.m., so individuals could be in a controlled environment after the bars close, and also where condoms are available." (- Editorial, *Gay & Lesbian Times*, March 23) This suggestion was included among those which GLT editors deemed "worthy of further consideration."

Bathhouses (and some of the better sex clubs and parties) can serve not only their participants, but also the general public - by keeping sex and noise indoors at night.

Not only do safer-sex environments encourage condom use, but also they contain activities which many citizens may not wish to see. And which adults don't want juveniles to see.

Tortuga Bi Liberty
Berkeley, CA

Intractable attitude

[The following letter was sent to Mitch Katz, MD, San Francisco Department of Public Health AIDS Office.]

I am a local psychotherapist in the gay community. Recently, I attended several meetings where the DPH's regulations regarding sex clubs were discussed. I am distressed over these regulations, especially the outlawing of private spaces in public clubs and the use of monitoring. From the discussions I heard, these regulations appear to be based on old-fashioned and largely discredited HIV prevention theory. I urge the DPH to reconsider these regulations in light of the substantial input you have received from club customers, owners, and HIV/AIDS educators, such as Wayne Blankenship of the SF AIDS Foundation, all of whom regard these regulations as representing a goal, "guaranteed safety," that is impossible to achieve and impossible to implement effectively. Clearly, the gay community does not want to participate in the creation of a "community norm" in sex clubs where Big Brother is watching, and where gay, bisexuals, and transgenders are told by an outside authority what to do and how to do it.

More significantly, I am concerned about the DPH's intractable attitude regarding these regulations and the unwillingness of your office to hold DPH-sponsored public hearings. I urge the DPH to hold a public meeting with yourself, Sandra Hernandez, Mayor Brown, and the many other major players in this issue, such as sex club customers, sex club owners, and HIV prevention specialists. These people deserve a chance to speak their peace directly to the real decision-makers behind these regulations.

There is a tremendous opportunity here: to create a proactive, innovative set of directives for sex clubs that are based on the latest in HIV prevention theory and research, community input, and attention to the wide variety of gay men's needs that interact in a sexual setting, such as increased self-efficacy, intimacy, and safety. As it stands, the current process of implementing these regulations smacks more of a political passing of the buck on a hot topic than up-to-date HIV prevention.

Tim Carroll, Ph.D.
San Francisco

More poetic license

Here are more poetic license plate frames. Why? Because I like to stay in the house in my "golden years" and play with my typewriter.

Here are the latest three. "Trumpeters can blow their own horns." "I'm wearing no socks and underwear to watch." And my favorite for the lowest class award: "I'd rather be home fucking my wife!" This guy protests too much!

Willard Newton
Orinda, CA

[Editor's note: What makes you assume the driver was a man?]

Vicious rumor

[The following two letters were sent to the editors of the San Francisco Bay View:]

The Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club takes great offense at the irresponsible journalism in evidence in the March 7th and 21st editions of the *San Francisco Bay View*. You printed an outrageously offensive quote and attributed it to Supervisor Tom Ammiano, on the basis that it was supposedly overheard by some unnamed third party. Anyone who knows Tom would realize this racist "quote" was never spoken by him. Yet your paper refuses to either print a retraction or name the source of this vicious rumor.

Journalists must be held accountable to basic ethical standards. We are in the middle of an election cycle and San Francisco politics can be outrageous, but there is no excuse for engaging in libel. We join Mayor Willie Brown and Supervisor Amos Brown in requesting that you print a retraction, acknowledging your error in publishing what you knew or should have known not to be true. You have done a great disservice to your readers in maligning Tom Ammiano, someone who has always fought for justice for all San Franciscans.

The Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual
Democratic Club

Creating divisions

A column by Marie Harrison in the March 11, 1997 issue of your newspaper [*Bay View*] dealt with the combined football stadium and mall that are proposed for construction at Candlestick Point, which San Franciscans will have a chance to vote on this June. Ms. Harrison devoted seven paragraphs of her column to discussing Supervisor Tom Ammiano and the fact that he has asked very probing questions about this proposal.

In her very first paragraph discussing Supervisor Ammiano, Ms. Harrison writes: "I have it on good authority that Ammiano was overheard saying that he opposed the placing of a mall in the Bayview, because those 'n—s' will only steal everything." Although Ms. Harrison follows that sentence by writing, "When I spoke with Ammiano, he told me that he never said such a thing," the reader is left with only one possible, indelible conclusion: that Supervisor Ammiano is a racist and that his denial of such is not to be given the same weight as the word of Ms. Harrison's unidentified "good authority."

We are shocked at the recklessness of your paper making such a damning and unsubstantiated charge. More importantly, we wish to state for the record that Supervisor Ammiano has enjoyed very good relations with our organization, Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action. Overall, Supervisor Ammiano has shown an extraordinary interest in being supportive of the empowerment of people of color, especially within the lesbian/gay community. His staff hires and his board commission appointments have been reflective of that interest, and we can say without hesitation that he has been a great friend to lesbians and gay men of color. By his words and deeds, Supervisor Ammiano has demonstrated that he understands the lack of power that comes both from economics and prejudice, and he has sought throughout his career to remedy that powerlessness.

We note that Tom Ammiano was the first supervisor to announce his unqualified support for renaming Fillmore St. to honor Dr. Carlton Goodlett. Last year, while others expressed insensitive concerns about the board holding a special meeting in the Bayview District, Sup. Ammiano immediately challenged such a negative view as representing an affront to the community and assisted in ensuring that the board kept its promise to meet in the Bayview neighborhood.

Your column had the effect of creating divisions where there are none and wounding someone who has been a champion by our side. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to recognize publicly that it was a mistake to throw out such a comment in such a charged way. The issues of race and the consequences of racism are far too important to be treated as mere fodder for someone's private political agenda.

For the record, our organization has not taken any position as of yet on the ballot measures dealing with the proposed stadium/mall. We will hear from representatives of both sides of the debate on this measure and will vote our endorsements in April.

Ron Hypolite and Renee Williams, Co-Chairs,
Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for
Democratic Action

Sports god

Jim Provenzano is God for a Day in my book "Of Pep Rallies and Bonfires" (March 27) is one of the best articles B.A.R. has published in recent times. I wish Team SF luck and hope their hard times end soon.

Thornton Kimes
San Francisco

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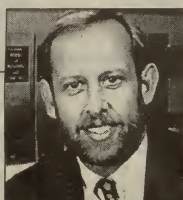
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Pit bull of comedy

So Sam Curlee and his friends went to see the spectacularly unfunny "comic" Bobby Slayton at the Punchline [B.A.R., March 27] and were subjected to Slayton's scorn and ridicule. What a surprise! Slayton has been on TV for years, so he's a known quantity. He hates everybody and everything - that's his act. I don't like what Slayton said, but it didn't sound much different from the types of things he has said to and about straight people. He's an equal-opportunity hater. You get what you pay for.

Sam, honey, you'd probably go to Sea World and then complain because Shamu splashed you. Grow up! You paid to hear the self-proclaimed "pit bull of comedy" ridicule people. But when the "ridiculed" turned out to be you, you couldn't take it. Joke's on you! If you want to hear gay-positive comedy, go to a gay club. But don't go to a Bobby Slayton gig and expect sweetness, light, and affirmation. Duh!

We queer people face massive real discrimination. We need to pick our battles much more carefully.

John Reid
San Francisco

Protected speech

Sam Curlee obviously hasn't faced much adversity in his 20 years if he gets this bent out of shape about a stand-up routine. I've been singled out in comedy clubs a couple of times before, and what I've found is that if you have half a brain and a little imagination, it's pretty easy to slam the comic back. This approach is much more satisfying than whining to the Human Rights Commission, because you can watch the comic's act instantly evaporate as he stammers uncomfortably on stage. It's a sight so entertaining it almost makes going to a comedy club worthwhile.

I should certainly hope that the Human Rights Commission doesn't waste its time on Sam Curlee's complaint. If they do, they need to bear in mind that whatever paltry authority they have does not outweigh the Constitution, which protects speech no matter how offensive some people might find it. It's a point that Mr. Curlee himself might want to think about sometime before he finishes journalism school.

Daniel Spiro
San Francisco

Reign of hysteria

Whether the issue is Bobby Slayton's reprehensible gay-bashing "act" at SF Punchline, the DPH's reactionary anti-bathhouse policy, or Pat Christen's fraudulent scamming of PWAs, one thing is clear. The only solution is for gay men to assert themselves. Since the inception of AIDS, gay men have lived under a reign of hysteria, and it will be gay men and gay men only who will finally put an end to this reign of hysteria. If, at this late date, gay men continue to be victimized by money-hungry agencies, a bigoted city health policy, and hateful barbs from a homophobic comic, then gay men have no one to blame but themselves. What is needed is the kind of militancy this city hasn't seen in twenty years. The kind of militancy that makes Dianne Feinstein's panty hose curl.

Ronnie Burk
San Francisco

Keep Piazzoni murals

It will be a sad day when the Gottardo Piazzoni murals are effectively destroyed. They were placed there as part of the structure of the San Francisco Public Library to match and complete the magnificent library designed by George Kelham.

The Carnegie Foundation bestowed an extra grant to San Francisco because of the striking design of the building in 1916. The colonnaded loggia at the second story is coupled with Ionic columns and sculpture. Easily flowing into the great staircase of travertine marble, one is struck by the low-toned murals of California scenery by Piazzoni.

Why shouldn't this stay? The building does, and they go hand in hand. If unfit for viewers of Asian art, is not the whole Italian Renaissance style building unworthy of the Asian collection? Anyway, when these huge murals are removed, what will be put in the holes?

That's kind of strange, for the murals are pastoral, restful and gentle, just like a lot of Asian art. They are unlike the coalition of ACT UP Asians who would destroy them.

This being San Francisco, let's compromise: let's keep the building and murals, and use the building for Asian art.

I have a library card and for that reason express this opinion.

One cannot get into a disagreement with someone in San Francisco unless and until the charge of racism enters the picture. It has entered here that somehow objection to the destruction of these murals is characterized as anti-Chinese, anti-Asian and the like. That's a hard one to swallow. Let's not.

John Riordan
San Francisco

Innocent until proven guilty

I am a third-generation San Franciscan and a part of the gay community's old guard. I am also, unfortunately, another member of the community who is addicted to drugs, and such activity often results in brief periods of residency at our marvelously archaic Hall of Justice and Jail at 850 Bryant. Egad!

During this retreat, I have had the distinct honor to meet a young man by the name of Darryl Geyer. Your readers should recognize the name. He is the 19-year-old being held on murder and arson charges. Prior to his arrest he frequented the Castro and the Russian River areas. The coverage of Darryl's arrest and problems he is encountering with our criminal justice system paint a picture which is extraordinarily misleading. I have always been a strong B.A.R. supporter and reader, and this is my first encounter with evidence of poor, amateurish and sloppy journalism.

Darryl is an intelligent, compassionate, and frightened young man who, according to our laws, is innocent until proven to be guilty as charged. That has not happened, and I doubt very much that it ever will.

B.A.R. should report Darryl's case and discuss the young man himself in a more objective manner at least. There are those of us who would also call upon the gay media to be more supportive of those accused of criminal activity - at least until the preponderance of evidence proves such support to be unwarranted. We expect the straight, secular press to hang us out to dry before the trial, but for our own media to be anything less than warm, supportive, informative and still objective, is wholly inappropriate.

I strongly urge reporter Dennis Conkin, who has covered Darryl in the past, to visit 850 Bryant and spend some time getting to know this young man. How about a human interest piece?

Vincent Thomas Dunn
San Francisco

[Do we have the responsibility to be "warm and supportive" about an alleged arsonist/killer? How about a human interest piece on the elderly woman who jumped to her death during the fire? Where were you when we did stories on other gay alleged criminals who were not young, nubile, and sexy? We stand by our "poor, amateurish, and sloppy journalism"; you may revel in your "distinct honor" of knowing Geyer, but keep an eye on your Zippo.]

Getty gas

[The following was sent to the SF Weekly:]

Regarding the February 19 issue, "The AIDS Civil War"... About a month ago I received a phone call from SF Weekly reporter George Cothran. His first question was, "Don't you think that money should be shifted from AIDS services to pay for AIDS drugs?" My response was: I think that drugs should be our top priority and that we should find money to pay for both. George then persisted, "What if there isn't enough money?" I responded that clearly, George, you are trying to make me say what you wish me to say, in order to meet some need in your article. (I now realize he had probably been told that this was my position by the SF AIDS Foundation, and he was just going through the motions). But old George was not going to give up. Surely he could trick me into saying the sound bite he had planned for me. It would fit so nicely with his angle that there is an AIDS Civil War going on. But I would not play along and was therefore labeled "cagey" by our intrepid George.

Later in the article, I was referred to as an economically superior gay white male. Well, honey (I can say honey because I'm actually bisexual), I make 24k per year, of which 5k goes to medical and related costs. I allow myself \$80 per week to live on after housing and transportation. If this is economic superiority, then the employees of the SF AIDS Foundation must surely be economic demigods! Also to refer to one's orientation and race in a negative light is both racist and sexist, George. And I thought the SF Weekly was the center of P.I.

Next, Boy George calls a nurse at SF General and tells her that ACT UP and Jeff Getty want to take services away from her dying patients (the very services we fought to get) - here George is really stretching it to get that emotional angry response he needs to add a little zest to the rather dull hit piece he has created. Of course, the nurse takes the bait and starts the name-calling. Good work, George.

Last year, I and others on the AIDS Drug Assistance Working Group were working (without pay) on getting the latest drugs out to everyone who needed them. Nancy Pelosi managed to get \$100 million for drugs from Congress. But in the middle of the night, AIDS service industry politicians such as Pat Christian strong-armed Pelosi and grabbed half the money, to be put into Title I services. So I entered the political arena to try to get the money back (a decision I often regret). Now I'm an evil gay white male economically superior being who just loves to take away food from the starving and housing from the homeless. Well, bite me.

Jeff Getty
Oakland, CA

POLITICS

Dianne dazzles Democratic conference

by Wayne Friday

Although Senator Dianne Feinstein says she will take a couple of more months before deciding about the 1998 California gubernatorial race, if it were up to the nearly 2,000 delegates, activists—and yes, even the journalists—attending the annual state Democratic convention in Sacramento last weekend, the former San Francisco mayor would be about to take the oath of office. While the potential candidates for governor frantically made the rounds of cocktail parties, caucuses, and dinners during the three-day gathering, the one candidate everyone was watching was still playing it close to the vest.

Feinstein was, however, clearly not discouraging possible support from those waiting for a response in the affirmative. While Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis, an announced candidate, received a polite but unenthusiastic reception after addressing the delegates, state Controller Kathleen Connell nearly cleared the hall while speaking (delegates chatted and ignored her somewhat rudely). Former Monterey-area Congressman and White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta also attended, and was warmly received by a dinner crowd of about 500 on Friday evening.

However, it was clearly Dianne Feinstein the Democratic delegates and activists were waiting to see. When the senior senator arrived at the convention around noon on Saturday, a large and vocal crowd of well-wishers cheered her at the curb as she emerged from a black Jeep Cherokee. One Sacramento television reporter said the adoring throng yelling, "Run, Dianne, run," reminded him of fans mobbing "an aging rock star," adding that those assembled "rushed toward Feinstein in the hallways and parted like the Red Sea as she and a gaggle of reporters, photographers and TV camera people fought their way toward a luncheon ballroom."

DiFi might have seemed coy with the inquisitive media, but she soon got down to business—and sounded very much like a candidate for governor when she made her speech to the delegates (she received two standing ovations). Feinstein mentioned her disappointment with the atmosphere in Washington (a possible hint?), pointed to education as the most urgent need to assure the continuing success of the state's economy, twice invoked the spirit of late Governor Edmund "Pat" Brown (one of her political heroes), and declared that the pressing challenges facing the state include more jobs, housing, better highways, healthcare, environmental protection, and public safety.

Without actually naming Governor Pete Wilson, Feinstein made it clear she was thinking of him and the state Republicans when she scolded them for seemingly being preoccupied with "who can we cut off and who can



Mike mouth: DiFi caught in mid-speech at a recent event.

we get rid of." She drew applause when she declared that "Republicans no longer control the agenda of crime and public safety," citing the 1994 crime bill and her own ban on assault weapons as being critical to altering public perception about Democrats and the crime issue. "Democrats are articulating a strong message, and that message is that the majority of us have rights—to walk down the streets safely, to use our parks freely, to be able to send our kids to a school where the youngster next to them isn't packing a .45," she elaborated.

Going back to one of her favorite subjects—education—Feinstein again brought the delegates to their feet when she declared that "education in this state is most critical. We risk leaving behind huge segments of our society when they remain uneducated. We can't let that happen. The No. 1 at-risk groups are those who don't have the skills that are necessary: high school dropouts, welfare recipients, poorly educated high school graduates." The senator again urged support for increased spending on education.

At a press conference after her address, Senator Feinstein joked that she would reveal all "before it snows," and those close to the popular politico say she's close to making up her mind but also anxious to avoid yet another bruising primary campaign. Feinstein herself has stated that she views the possible candidacy of multimillionaire Northwest Airlines executive Alfred Checchi (who's vowed to spend up to \$25 million of his own money if he enters the race) as harmful to the party. "One of the problems, I think, for us Democrats," DiFi opined, "is divisive primaries which eventually jeopardize the effort in the fall. If you have somebody that comes from nowhere who has no record, but a lot of money...well, I've been through that before, and it can become very nasty."

Many observers attending the three-day convention felt that even Checchi would stay out of the race and defer to Feinstein if the senator eventually enters. Checchi's reluctance to address the convention, though he was invited to do so, only added to that feeling.

Leon Panetta reportedly told DiFi outright in Sacto over the

weekend that "if you run, I'm out, and I'll work night and day to elect you." Neither of them are very fond of Gray Davis.

As we went to press, one longtime Feinstein supporter, thought to have the inside track on her plans, was telling this writer that the senator was "terribly thankful and highly impressed" with the reception she received over the weekend, adding that "from where I sit, it looks like a go for Dianne. She's longing to get back home. I say she's in by late June."

Politics and people

Just as the Democrats face a potentially nasty primary race next year for governor, the Republicans are likely to have a bitter battle between state Treasurer Matt Fong and San Diego Mayor Susan Golding for the right to oppose Senator Barbara Boxer in the general election. Golding made her candidacy all but official last week, and Fong announced weeks ago.


Political insiders will know what I mean when I say that San Mateo County supervisors clerk Rick Silver isn't making too many friends among Democrats either in that county or San Francisco.

Meanwhile, my San Jose contact tells me that SJ Mayor Susan Hammer is all but set to announce for lieutenant governor next year now that Phil Angelides has switched his sights from that job to state treasurer.

The death of poet icon Allen Ginsberg Saturday in NYC left his many friends in San Francisco deeply saddened by his passing. Though I didn't know Ginsberg well, I first met him in New York City in the mid-60s. Ginsberg, already a famous poet, dined with mutual friends and myself. Meeting him was an experience. I last saw him here about three years ago when I attended a reading of his in Marin. A proud homosexual, Allen Ginsberg, the voice of the Beat Generation and one of the great American voices of this century, was probably the poetic heir to Walt Whitman. Ginsberg, who was suffering from liver cancer, was reportedly surrounded by several close friends and former lovers at his East Village apartment when he apparently had a stroke and died. The author of such classics as "Howl!" and "Kaddish" was 70.

And finally, on a personal note, a belated (April 7) happy 65th to a very old and dear friend, Reba, of the "P.S. Lounge on beautiful Polk Street. Many, many more. ▼

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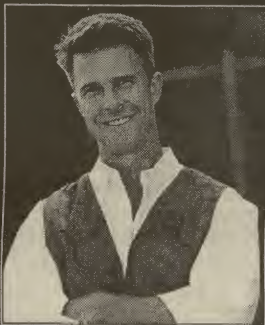
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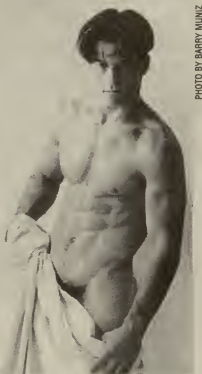


PHOTO BY BARRY MUNK

Cosmic debris

by Beth Elliott

Nice of those last two Heaven's Gate cultists to tidy up before offing themselves. They're blowing off our planet for a higher existence, but they're dead set on getting that rental deposit back.

I figured out the real origin of the cult leader's name, "Do." It's like, "Lousy cult — they promised me a ride in a spaceship and all I got was this bowl of poisoned applesauce. Poisoned applesauce? Doh!"

That some male cultists had undergone castration to short-circuit lust (shades of the Apostle Paul) made me think about Christian denominations that expect gay folks to live our lives out in celibacy. "Do" was so ashamed of liking men that he'd tried "reparative therapy," hoping to turn un-gay. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to make the correlation between superstitions about same-sex intimacy and the guilt and shame that led cultists to trash their 'nads. It's like fearing comets as portents of evil.

Did anyone else catch the cult's video farewell and cringe upon seeing the women in those boring, short, androgynous, granola-crunchy dyke haircuts? I was relieved to see the men wearing them, too. Still, the combination

even strapping these twin engines in tandem), bodies aren't just "containers" for consciousness. Bodies give us access to data, and allow consciousness to express itself in a finite world.

And if you're talking "level above human," you're talking evolution. What's the evolutionary trend of sex? Increasing independence from reproductive cycles and even from heterosexual-only models. Some of us find sex can be part of this complete expanding of consciousness and awareness; lesbian intimacy can shoo 'nuff evoke the ever-popular "universal in the particular" effect. On my Nepal trip, Dr. Mukunda Aial, our sacred Hindu art expert, explained that love of "the divine" could encompass sexual attraction to (Her) the transcendent as well. Works for the Volcano Girl!

Sick humor

And it worked for me like crazy as I shared sick, rude, cultist humor on an Easter Sunday Gay and Lesbian Sierrans hike through the Morgan Territory, an East Bay Regional Preserve on the southeast side of Mt. Diablo lauded in Gina Covina's return to local

fearless hike leader Ellie made it. We called her from Rockridge BART and got a voicemail message saying she was canceling because she'd forgotten the 30th was Easter Sunday. So we did it ourselves, putting together an 11.5-mile trek with 2,000 feet of elevation gain — a typical Ellie hike. Ellie's charming and a superb hike leader, but one who loves to hit a four-

wheel drive-type stride on hills while the rest of us are kicking down into low gear.

Having the opportunity to rag her affectionately in *absentia*, we imagined Ellie getting browbeaten into abandoning a hike in favor of

Easter dinner with her girlfriend's parents. Yeah,

Easter dinner in ... Fresno! Or at least Turlock. On a thousand-foot incline that must have been on Ellie's planned route, we got onto a Pippi Longstocking riff and decided our spunky missing comrade must really be named Pippi Ellie. That led to: who's a better hiker than her cousin, Kirstie Ellie. Who's a better hiker than her cousin, Kirstie McNichol, who's a better hiker than her cousin, Nichelle Nichols, who's a better hiker than her brother because he joined that cult and committed suicide. "And that brings us back to Do, Do, Do, Do..."

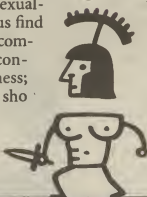
Higher level

If there indeed is some "level above human," there are a couple of things about it that should be readily inferred. First, evolution tends to keep what works and toss what doesn't. That would tend to weed out those gullible enough to get led into overriding survival instinct to follow a suicide cult scheme. There are plenty of theories about reincarnation (for those of us who go to that déjà vu voodoo that we do so well), or evolution to a state where an advanced consciousness expresses itself through a body made of light; were I convinced I was reaching some new level, I like to think I'd hold out for some kind of retrofit.

Second, going from infancy (human, in this case) to adulthood (purported "level above human") usually involves passage through adolescence. And teenagers don't go into adulthood quietly; usually, they integrate adult interests and capabilities into their existing sense of self, and go to great lengths to try out their growing bodies and personalities. Even if human equals teenager and level above equals adult, adulthood is learned by doing, not achieved by a personality core dump. I'd think level above would have some heightened appreciation or broader perspective of sexuality, not just a negation of it.

Also arguing for a transition as opposed to a transformation is the disorientation factor. Sure, the "transformed" humans could wake up in new containers suddenly understanding it all — more likely, any new awareness would dawn on them slowly so they could get used to it.

And I'd bet that if there is a level above, we've got to get there on our own, with no spaceships to bail us out. "Do" sold an evasion for those afraid of transcending being human by bravely going through it. As Frank Zappa would say: "Hey there, buddy — don't you jive me with that cosmic debris." ▼

**Sapphistication****Bodies aren't just
'containers' for consciousness.**

of going androgynous to avoid the evils of lust, and those dippy haircuts was, like, scaring me there for a minute.

In a way, this reminded me of postmodernism, the only school of thought that both talks about knowledge through the body and denies the body by claiming everything is constructed, including gender. From both rationalist and metaphysical perspectives (or

print. (Out 580, left on North Livermore Road, right on Morgan Territory Road, hit the trail and feel your heart sing.) Wow, was it beautiful there, and did our hike fill us with bliss! Rolling hills still green from the rains, and wildflowers for days! Think trails lined with buttercups and lupine, stunning views of Diablo, the works.

There were but four of us on this magnificent hike; not even

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MEDIA ALERT

Dr. Quinn sings the body electric

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

The Saturday, April 5 episode of CBS's *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman* took a 19th Century look at bigotry towards "the love that dare not speak its name," as Walt Whitman came to town and sparked a debate in a small community. When Preston (Jason Leland Adams) invited Whitman (Donald Moffat) to hold a reading, the townsfolk were abuzz with enthusiasm. Andrew (Brandon Douglas) soon dampened the excitement after pulling Preston aside, warning him against Whitman because of rumors that he "prefers the company of men." Preston went on a campaign to disassociate himself from Whitman, as townspeople began to act upon their own stereotypes and homophobia. When Dr. Quinn's young son Brian (Shaun Toovey) went for a walk in the woods with Whitman to interview him for the town newspaper, Dr. Quinn (Jane Seymour) was forced to confront her own bigotry.

By presenting issues of sexual identity and discrimination in a historical setting, CBS recognized not only that one of America's great bards was a gay man, but also that lesbian, gay, and bisexual people have always existed, dealing with discrimination and misunderstanding. Unfortunately, CBS has already come under attack from at least one anti-gay hate group.

Please let CBS know how you feel about this very special episode of *Dr. Quinn*. Contact: Leslie Moonves, President of CBS Entertainment, CBS, 7800 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036, e-mail: marketing@cbs.com.

Ellen sponsors stand for intolerance

Three corporations have decided not to sponsor the April 30 episode of ABC's *Ellen* in which the title character will come out of the closet. Chrysler, General Motors, and Johnson & Johnson, three of *Ellen*'s major sponsors in the recent past, have all announced that they will not place ads during the groundbreaking episode. A Chrysler spokeswoman said that "we're not making a social statement [about sexual orientation]. But it's not sound business for us to be involved with an episode that's in such a highly polarized and emotional environment." While the companies were targeted by anti-gay radical religious groups, each stated that their decision was made prior to any threats by hate groups.

Whatever the timing of the decision, by shying away from sponsorship of this history-making episode of *Ellen*, these corporations are making a statement against diversity. Additionally, they fan the flames of bigotry by appearing to kow-tow to the fractious agenda of anti-gay hate groups. Despite Chrysler's claim that their actions do not make a "social statement," their cowardice is a slap in the face to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, and their family and friends. As the world watches this momentous occasion, these compa-

nies will be viewed as sitting on the sidelines, along with the fearful, ignorant, and small-minded.

Urges Chrysler, General Motors, and Johnson & Johnson to take a stand for diversity and for accurate portrayals of all Americans, and encourage them to reconsider sponsoring *Ellen*. Remind them that lesbians and gay men have historically supported businesses that support us.

Contact: Robert J. Eaton, Chairperson, Chrysler Corporation, 1100 Chrysler Drive, Auburn Hills, MI 48326, phone: 800.992.1997; John F. Smith, Chairperson, General Motors Corporation, 3044 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48202, phone: 313.556.5000, fax: 313.556.1988; Ralph S. Larsen, Chairperson, Johnson & Johnson, One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ 09883, phone: 800.635.6789, fax: 908.214.0332, WWW: <http://www.jnj.com/feedback.htm>.

In The Life under attack

Wisconsin State Senator Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) has called for Wisconsin Public Television to stop broadcasting *In The Life*, the acclaimed gay and lesbian bi-monthly newsmagazine series which airs nationally on over 90 public television stations. Fitzgerald was alarmed that the April/May edition features a segment taped in Wisconsin about lesbian and gay people who grew up on Midwestern farms, and, in an April 1 press release, stated that "public television has gone beyond moral community standards. This program portrays Wisconsin in a very negative light and should be removed." The station has stood up to Fitzgerald's intolerance and continues to support *In The Life* as quality programming.

Please commend Wisconsin Public Television for rejecting hate, and for celebrating the diversity of Wisconsin and our nation by airing *In The Life*. Contact: James Steinbach, Director of Programming and Production, Wisconsin Public Television, 821 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706, fax: 608.263.9763, e-mail: steinbach@vilas.uwex.edu.

Kenar face-to-face: hip or disgrace?

A gender-bending advertisement for Kenar, a clothing company with a longstanding commitment to the fight against AIDS, has created a flurry of debate among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The print ad features supermodel Linda Evangelista wearing full makeup, hoop earrings and a negligee, kissing what appears to be either a man or a very butch woman. On closer inspection, however, it is Evangelista morphed onto the body of a man wearing a tank top. The advertisement celebrates a fluid concept of gender as well as a playfulness towards sexual orientation. But on April 1, the ad was put into a potentially different context when it appeared as a full-page ad in the *New York Times* with the tag line: "April Fool's."

Does the "April Fool's" tag line change the positive content of the advertisement? Some GLAAD

members feel that by calling the gender-bending a joke, Kenar implies that transgender or same-gender imagery is something laughable, and that by calling it a joke, the company has jeopardized an otherwise progressive ad campaign. Others members believe that the value of the ad still has meaning even with the tag line, and that Kenar should be praised for blurring the lines of gender and sexuality.

In the first step towards GLAAD's plan to develop a GLAADAlert message board, we encourage people to sound off about the ad on our Web site at <http://www.glaad.org>.

Through a public dialogue, we hope to better address the various issues of identity and

representation such as an ad embodies. Contact: GLAAD Web site: <http://www.glaad.org>.

County commission perverts arts funding process

Mecklenburg County (North Carolina) commissioners striving to censor gay- and lesbian-themed art have voted 5-4 to cut all funding to the local Arts & Science Council, a quasi-public group that funds art projects. Prompted by a recent production of *Angels in America* in Charlotte as well as a scheduled production of *Six Degrees of Separation*, the commissioners claimed the April 2 decision to defund the arts was meant to prevent viewers from being "exposed" to so-called "perverted forms of sexuality." The policy would mean that the commissioners would consider each request for arts funding on a case-by-case basis. According to the resolution, money will be denied to all projects that "promote, advocate, or endorse behaviors, lifestyles, and values that seek to undermine and deviate from the value and societal role of the traditional American family." Nearly 700 people attended the meeting, speaking both for and against the move, which dissenting commissioner Parks Helms described as "the most terrible, terrible thing that has happened in this community in many years."

Censoring free artistic expression because of its gay and lesbian content is hardly a new concept, especially in light of Rep. Pete Hoekstra's (R-Mich) recent attack on the National Endowment for the Arts based on lesbian- and woman-related film projects. By using taxpayer money paid by all citizens to fund only art which reflects the moral values of a handful of county commissioners, Mecklenburg County does an injustice not only to lesbian-, gay-, bisexual- and transgender-themed work, but sets a precedent to clamp down on any art which does not suit the commission's small-minded, high-handed views. To cite such world-renowned and standard works as *Angels in America* and *Six Degrees of Separation* as "perverted" reveals how truly marginal and bigoted these politicians are.

Contact: Mecklenburg County Commission, 600 E. 4th Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202, phone: 704.336.2479. ▼



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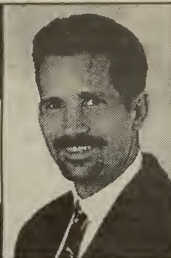
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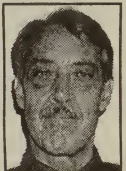
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23 years ago this week: Sick of being labeled 'sick'

by David Bianco

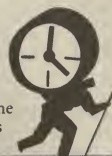
This week in gay history: The membership of the American Psychiatric Association votes to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders April 8, 1974.

In what was indisputably a key turning point in the struggle for gay and lesbian equality, the American Psychiatric Association experienced a tumultuous internal debate in late 1973 and early 1974, ending in the decision to remove homosexuality from the APA's list of mental disorders. The episode, whose lasting impact on the public perceptions of gay people has been tremendous, was a political saga and a public spectacle.

For early 1970s gays and lesbians, the "official" status of homosexuality as an illness listed in the APA's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders was a pressing concern. The adjective "sick," along with "sinful" and "criminal," formed a triumvirate of labels that posed significant barriers to both gay self-esteem and civil equality.

As early as the 1960s, some gay men and lesbians were beginning to publicly reject the sickness label as insulting to a group of people

who mostly led happy, healthy lives tainted only by prejudice. In addition, the work of non-gay researchers like Evelyn Hooker, Alfred Kinsey, and Judd Marmor lent credibility to such claims. But starting in 1970, an orchestrated campaign by gay and lesbian liberationists was the spark that convinced many psychiatrists to finally reevaluate homosexuality's official status. One of the first "zaps" against the psychiatric status quo took place at the 1970 APA convention, when a bearded man in a red dress grabbed the microphone from anti-gay psychiatrist Irving Bieber and shouted, "We've listened to you long enough; you listen to us. We're fed up with being told we're sick. You're the ones who are sick. We're gay and



Past Out

per se be deleted, but a category called "Sexual Orientation Disturbance" be retained, to cover those lesbians and gays who were unhappy in their orientation and wanted to change. Although many gay activists found the new category insulting, they made a tactical decision to support the compromise, declare victory, and ignore the lingering diagnostic category.

On December 15, 1973, the APA's Board of Trustees unanimously approved Spitzer's compromise, and went a step further by calling for the decriminalization of homosexuality and the passage of civil rights protections for gays and lesbians. It was an unprecedented endorsement of what gays had been asking for by

It was a clear vindication of the idea that homosexuality per se is not a mental illness.

we're proud." Other gay liberationists adopted the chant, "Stop it! You're making me sick!"

The next year, demonstrations continued, with long-time gay activist Frank Kameny disrupting the event's convocation by shouting, "Psychiatry is the enemy incarnate!" into a microphone, and lesbian and gay activists protesting the inclusion of an aversion therapy booth in the convention hall. But in addition, the APA (in hopes of pre-empting pro-gay demonstrations) scheduled a panel at its conference entitled "Lifestyles of Non-Patient Homosexuals," which gay activists soon began to refer to as "Lifestyles of Im-Patient Homosexuals." For the first time, psychiatrists at their annual convention did not just talk about homosexuals — they listened to them as well.

At the 1972 convention, another panel was held, but this one included an unusual spectacle — a gay psychiatrist, wearing a wig and rubber mask, with a microphone rigged to disguise his voice. "Dr. Henry Anonymous" spoke to 500 of his colleagues attending the session about his experiences in the closet, and observers were moved by his talk, however farcical the circumstances.

By the 1973 convention in Honolulu, more and more psychiatrists publicly supported deleting homosexuality from the diagnostic manual, but significant opposition remained. The breakthrough came with a compromise proposed by a heterosexual psychiatrist named Robert Spitzer, who proposed that homosexuality

one of the very groups they had seen as their oppressors. Gays and lesbians had just begun to celebrate their victory when a reversal seemed all too possible. Bieber and his fellow anti-gay colleague Dr. Charles Socarides (whose son Richard is now Bill Clinton's top gay aide) invoked a procedural maneuver that would bring the diagnostic change before a vote of the APA's 20,000 members. Before the mail-in vote, gay activists from the National Gay Task Force orchestrated and paid for a letter (whose gay funding was not noted) from all three candidates for the APA presidency, as well as other leading psychiatrists, to the entire APA membership, urging them to support the board's position in order to avoid embarrassing their profession.

The results were announced on April 8: 58 percent of those voting supported the board's decision, and 37 percent opposed it, while the rest abstained. It was a clear vindication of the idea that homosexuality per se is not a mental illness — but at the same time, it meant that thousands of doctors still treated (as many still continue to treat) gays and lesbians as inherently sick individuals. ▼

David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. The author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*, he can be reached care of this publication or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.



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Gay kids of gay parents: Is it genetic?

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

I'm a gay male who has been out for about six years," a reader wrote me recently, "but I also have a six-year-old son. His mother knows I am gay, but she will not allow him to spend the summers with me and my lover. The reason being that my lover and I will not sleep in separate bedrooms. She is afraid that it will influence him in some way. What do you recommend for us to help her through this?"

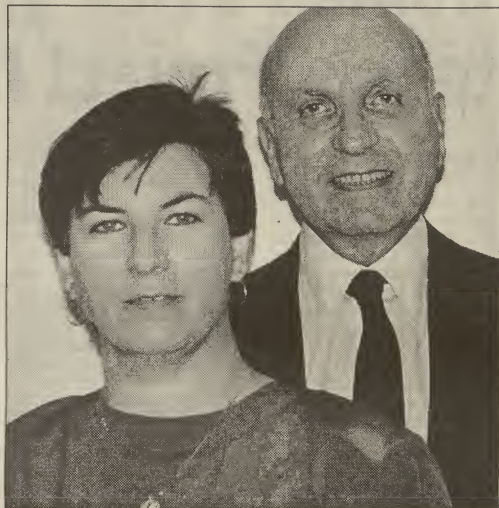
The writer doesn't say exactly what the mother is concerned about, but most likely it's the possibility that the boy will grow up gay. This raises an interesting question: are the children of gay or lesbian parents more than usually likely to become gay or lesbian themselves – either because of the example set by their parents, or because they've inherited "gay genes?"

Let me say right off: if the answer to this question turned out to be yes, I'd be the first to celebrate. Go forth and multiply, because the world needs more queers. But many people see it differently. In child custody and adoption cases, for example, gay or lesbian parents or would-be parents are often at a serious disadvantage, in part because of the fear that the child will be influenced towards homosexuality themselves. So what are the facts of the matter?

In a 1995 study from Northwestern University, researchers investigated the sexual orientation of 82 adult men whose biological fathers were gay or bisexual. It turned out that 91 percent of the sons were heterosexual, and nine percent were gay or bisexual. Thus, the main conclusion was that the great majority of the sons of gay men become heterosexual. That nine percent figure may be somewhat higher than the general rate of homosexuality and bisexuality in the population – perhaps as a result of some genetic or role-modeling influence, or perhaps because the sons felt more-than-usually comfortable admitting to being gay – but this effect, if it exists at all, is a small one.

Among these 82 men, some had spent their entire childhood with their fathers, while others had had little contact with them. The researchers examined whether there was any relationship between how much contact a boy had with his gay father and the likelihood that he would become a gay man himself. They found that there was no such relationship. Thus, role-modeling by a gay father seems not to be a significant factor in determining a boy's ultimate sexual orientation.

There have been several studies of the daughters of lesbian or bisexual women. One study, by Angela Pattatucci and Dean Hamer of the National Cancer Institute, reported that about one third of these girls became lesbian or bisexual themselves – significantly higher than the comparison group of women whose mothers were heterosexual. However, this study was a small one and relied primarily on interviews with the mothers, rather than



Drs. Sheppard and Kathryn Kominars, a well-known gay father and lesbian daughter team who lead seminars and workshops on substance abuse all over the U.S., are the authors of *Accepting Ourselves and Others*, which examines compulsive behavior among gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

with the daughters. Other studies have come up with lower figures, although they have generally been compatible with the idea that there is a modestly increased rate of homosexuality among the daughters of lesbian and bisexual women. The studies do not make clear whether this apparently increased rate is due to "gay genes," role-modeling, or to an increased openness on the part of the daughters about their sexuality.

Opposite-sex children (sons of lesbians, daughters of gay men) seem to have little increased likelihood of becoming gay or lesbian themselves, although the numbers of children studied have generally been small. In the Pattatucci and Hamer study, for example, not one of the 12 sons of lesbian or bisexual mothers became gay or bisexual.

All in all, the research studies suggest that having gay parents

has little influence on a child's ultimate sexual orientation. In addition, most studies have reported that these children are as well-adjusted as other children. The worst thing they may have to put up with is a certain amount of teasing from their peers. Finally, these children tend to be less homophobic and more tolerant than other people. If they are gay themselves, they are more readily accepting of their sexuality. Most of us would consider these as positive benefits of a gay upbringing. ▼

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996) and the gay techno-thriller, *Albrick's Gold* (Richard Kasak/Masquerade Books). He is also the co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. He can be reached care of this publication or at SLeVay@aol.com.



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Atlanta-based women's HIV group to join Project Inform

by Cynthia Laird

Project Inform and the Atlanta-based Women's Information Services and Exchange (WISE) announced that WISE's executive director, Dawn Averitt, will be joining the Information and Advocacy Department at Project Inform this Tuesday, April 15.

Averitt's experience as a women's AIDS treatment advocate will expand and enrich Project Inform's information and advocacy department, where she will coordinate a new advocacy program called Project WISE, as well as contribute to efforts in the ongoing work of Project Inform.

Averitt and Annette Brands, executive director at Project Inform, said that in the spirit of consolidation, WISE will close as an independent organization, although efforts are underway to ensure that its services to women living with HIV/AIDS in the Atlanta area are not diminished. Additionally, Project Inform will be expanding its publications to include *WISE Words*, a monthly newsletter emphasizing treatment issues of concern to women living with HIV. The newsletter is currently being published by WISE.

"We view this as an exciting opportunity to expand treatment services to women living with HIV," said Martin Delaney, founding director at Project Inform. "Through Project Inform's national town meeting program, our national treatment information hotline, our widely accessed web site, and our extensive publications program, we will immediately increase the size of the audience that WISE currently reaches."

"Our existing database of HIV/AIDS treatment information will greatly expand the spectrum of information services available to these women," Delaney added. Currently, WISE Words reach-

es about 2,000 women. Approximately 30 percent of the 50,000 calls received on Project Inform's national HIV/AIDS treatment information hotline are from women. Upwards of 25 percent of the 60,000 people receiving first-hand copies of Project Inform publications are women.

The agency's award-winning web site received 65,000 "hits" in January alone. Among the top 20 topics most commonly accessed is

treatment information reaching women living with HIV/AIDS."

Brands said Project Inform consistently receives excellent feedback from women it serves.

"We feel we could be doing an even better job," Brands said. "The knowledge base that Dawn brings with her on issues of HIV will undoubtedly improve Project Inform's services to women. She will also enhance our ability to better serve our constituent's treatment

A move to increase information available to women with HIV.

information on gynecological manifestations of HIV disease, suggesting women and their healthcare providers are accessing Project Inform's treatment information through the Internet.

Averitt commented on the consolidation, "This move also marks an expansion of many of the activities of WISE. Establishing a program focused on women's issues at Project Inform, the nation's leading HIV/AIDS treatment information and advocacy organization, will greatly enhance the information currently available to women through Project Inform. This transition is a winning situation for all, improving the quality and quantity of

information needs regarding AIDS-related opportunistic infections, another area which we feel deserves increased attention."

Project Inform was established in 1985 as a national nonprofit, community-based HIV/AIDS treatment information and advocacy organization. ▼

Project Inform's treatment hotline is (800) 822-7422 or (415) 558-9051 in the Bay Area and internationally. Hotline hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. (All times Pacific.) Their web site is <http://www.projinf.org>

New director at Cohen residence

by Cynthia Laird

Administrators at Dolores Street Community Services (DSCS) in San Francisco have announced that Steven Tyson has been hired as the program director of the Richard M. Cohen residence for people with HIV. Tyson started work Monday, April 7.

Tyson recently moved to California from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His education includes a masters of public health, specializing in public and community health services; and a masters certification in public administration, specializing in nonprofit administration. His most recent position was working in the managed care field with the Solano Partnership Health Plan.

"We are delighted to have someone of Steven's capabilities on board," said Bob Nelson, DSCS executive director. "His enthusiasm and experience make him the ideal person to meet the challenges of the future of HIV supportive housing."

As program director, Tyson is responsible for the general day-to-day operations at the ten-bed facility. He will supervise all staff and make sure the residents' needs are being met. Additionally, he will supervise outside organizations that perform work at the

home, such as Visiting Nurses and Hospice workers and volunteers. Tyson will also network with other HIV/AIDS service organizations and monitor contracts and budgets for the Cohen residence.

Before relocating to California, Tyson worked with the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh as coordinator of program planning and special projects, and community health specialist. Nelson said Tyson has expertise in the fields of HIV/AIDS, mental health, substance abuse, disabilities, housing, program and policy development, and budget preparation and monitoring.

The Richard M. Cohen Residence, located in the city's Castro District, provides nursing, attendant care, case management, and other support services in a culturally appropriate setting.

DSCS was organized in 1982 as a multiservice organization to address the needs of the people in the Mission and Castro neighborhoods. In addition to the Cohen residence, the agency's programs include the Dolores Housing Program, which provides emergency housing to the homeless in the Mission District, and a community center at 938 Valencia Street. ▼

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Is the state harassing Brian Carmichael?

Condom purchase lands paroled prison activist back behind bars

by Cynthia Laird

Gay prison activist Brian Patrick Carmichael was arrested for buying three condoms at a Garden Grove, California adult bookstore March 22 and has been sent back to the state prison in Chino. According to authorities, simply going into the bookstore was a violation of special new parole conditions Carmichael signed — under duress, and pending appeal — 11 days earlier.

He has refused a six-month prison sentence, and is expected to have a parole hearing soon.

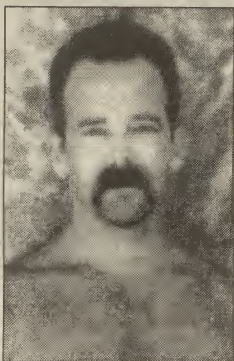
While an inmate at the Vacaville prison several years ago, Carmichael, 33, fought for improved healthcare access for HIV-positive inmates. He now says that work has resulted in authorities looking for a payback. In a letter to the *Bay Area Reporter*, Carmichael accused California Department of Corrections (CDC) officials of harassment because of his activist background. He said the new conditions — 19 in all, added to the two he has had since he was released on parole earlier this year — make it nearly impossible for him to succeed on parole, although he had a job before this latest incident and he has many supporters in the community.

If they are taken literally, for example, Carmichael could also be arrested for going into a chain drugstore to purchase condoms, since many stores sell alcohol and adult magazines. Among other prohibitions, the new conditions forbid Carmichael to possess liquor or erotica and to be near places where they are sold.

According to a report done for the Board of Prison Terms (BPT), Carmichael's two-minute condom run into the bookstore violated two conditions:

- "You are not to view, possess, or have access to videotapes, films, magazines, or photocopies depicting any type of sexual activity or sexually-oriented material."

- "You are not to enter, travel past, or loiter near areas of sexual or pornographic activity such as adult bookstores, massage parlors,



Brian Patrick Carmichael

topless bars, sex shops, etc."

A police officer, who had been apprised of the new catalogue of prohibitions, watched Carmichael enter the store and exit, and then arrested him.

'Evil ways'

Carmichael's current parole agent, Paul Fice, is a replacement for an agent currently out on stress leave; Carmichael wrote the B.A.R. the agent took the leave in part because of the way CDC supervisors have allegedly persecuted him. According to Fice's report, Carmichael "must begin to spend all his time productively and give up his 'evil ways.'" Asked to explain what he meant by the phrase "evil ways," Fice asked, "Did I say that?" and then refused to answer any questions about his report.

"I don't talk to the press," he told the B.A.R.

Carmichael's good friend and supporter Angel Palmer told the B.A.R. that she has talked with Fice and explained what she thought was Carmichael's reasoning for going to the adult bookstore. "When Brian needs condoms, he doesn't think to go to Savon [a local drug store chain]. His experience is so limited, it's just an automatic reflex," she said.

"He told me, Angel, that's the only place I've ever bought them."

Palmer said she hopes to have an attorney present at Carmichael's parole hearing, as he

continues to appeal to have his restrictions lifted. She agrees with Carmichael's assessment that the conditions virtually doom him to non-compliance and jail. For instance, parole officials have even forbidden him from watching television or movies that are "geared toward your criminal history or your modus operandi."

In a letter to the B.A.R. from prison, Carmichael wrote, "How can CDC let prisoners watch violent crime dramas on TV as dozens are now in the dayroom in this cellblock right now—and say I can't watch the same show after I'm released from prison?"

"It's crazy and frustrating and

painful."

Carmichael was last released from state prison in January. He had been held there for several months over bizarre allegations involving the drugging and gang-rape of a resident of a sober living program Carmichael managed. Carmichael had ordered the resident to leave the facility over a violation of house rules. The alleged victim later recanted his story. ▼

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Radical Women to give report from Cuba tonight

by Claudia Figueroa

Radical Women's Seattle delegate Jordano Sardo will be in San Francisco tonight (Thursday, April 10) to discuss U.S. involvement with Cuban citizens, despite the passage of the Helms-Burton Law that cut ties with Cuban trade this year. She will also discuss how her organization is developing plans for this summer, with the help of the Federation of Cuban Women, to send a Feminist Brigade committee to the island nation, to unite people of all races and sexual orientations.

During the forum, Sardo plans to discuss more of the delegation's trip and show the video *The Unconquered: Interviews by Radical Women with Cuban Women*. Radical Women (RW) hopes that by educating community members about current events in Cuba, they will encourage some San Franciscans to join the brigade to one of the last communist countries in the world.

Radical Women founding member Clara Fraser was a delegate of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, formed after the 1959 Cuban Revolution as a last effect to maintain solidarity. Last October the group met with the FMC in Cuba, hoping to strengthen their commonly shared political and humanitarian interests, and pledged to return.

Sardo told the B.A.R. that a highlight of her tour was a visit to La Guinera, a community on the outskirts of Havana that has received international recognition for its construction projects, which assisted people by relocating them

to better living conditions.

"This is a community where many lesbians and gays live," she told the B.A.R., "and the women leaders of the community proudly pointed out photographs taken of drag shows that helped develop the community's solidarity to work together to improve the living conditions."

"These women emphasized to me that lesbians and gays were treated as equals, were thoroughly integrated into the community, and were an important part of the building brigades that constructed huge apartment buildings."

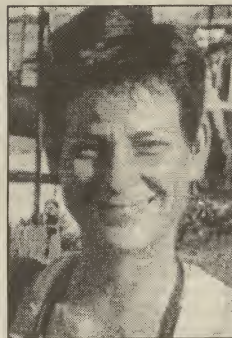
When she spoke with a gay man in one of the villages she visited, he told her that when the film *Fresas y Chocolate* (Strawberries and Chocolate) and *Gay Cuba* were released, suddenly, it was fashionable to be gay. He told her that he thought the films were important because they opened up the issue of homosexuality in Cuba. Sardo soon learned that most of the gays she met were very familiar with the films, and discovered that they have brought changes in attitudes toward lesbians and gays throughout their community.

Queer in Cuba

Sardo told the B.A.R. that her mission to Cuba was successful in terms of gaining a broader perspective of how the Cuban government responds to gays and lesbians. She said one thing she learned was that members of the Communist Party are not allowed to be open about their sexual orientation inside the party. However, there are signs that may be changing.

She interviewed an Afro-Cuban lesbian who told her that "as a socialist, as a defender of the revolution, and as a member of the party, she did not see why her sexuality—a key part of who she was—should be kept in the closet."

"We in RW believe that not



RW's Jordano Sardo

only is there no contradiction between being gay and believing in socialism, but that lesbians and gays, along with women and people of color, have been on the front lines and have great revolutionary potential because of our experience with multiple oppressions," Sardo responded. "There can be no true socialism without the full equality and democratic voice of lesbians and gays."

"This makes the involvement of lesbians and gays in the international Feminist Brigade really important."

She will also explain how to become involved with the movement, for those who are interested. ▼

The forum is at Centro del Pueblo, 474 Valencia (near 16th St. BART), and is open to men and women. The 7:30 p.m. forum will be preceded by a 6:30 reception. There is a \$3 donation at the door. Cuban beverages and desserts will be served with an additional donation. Child care is also available. For more information, call (415) 864-1278.

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Eric Goosby, MD, Acting Director, White House Office of AIDS Policy

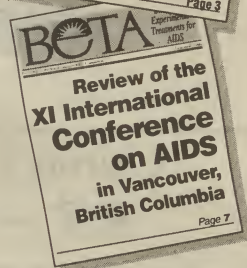
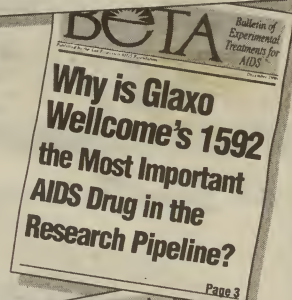
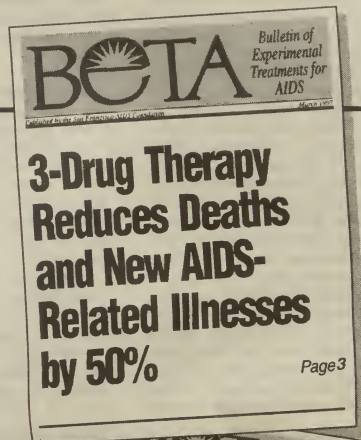
Melanie Thompson, MD, AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta, GA

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New 'AIDS czar' named

by Bob Roehr

President Bill Clinton named Sandra L. Thurman his third director of the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) at a brief White House ceremony on Monday, April 7. "My door is open to her," the president pledged of his new "AIDS czar."

Thurman is an Atlanta native who built AID Atlanta into a major AIDS services organization during her tenure as executive director from 1988 to 1993. She has been a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS since its inception two years ago.

Thurman has also been very active in Democratic politics. She took a leave of absence from her job in 1992 to run the crucial Georgia primary campaign for Clinton and worked on the 1996 presidential campaign, at the Democratic National Convention, and on the inaugural committee.

Bruce Reed, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, told the Advisory Council that appointing Thurman "really was the president's idea." Others confirmed that White House liaison Richard Socarides had circulated several names among AIDS leaders as a possible ONAP director, but never Thurman's.

Reed said that "for the first time" the ONAP director will have an office "within the White House complex," though that is likely to be for just Thurman and not her staff. Acting Director Eric Goosby

will stay on as her deputy while also retaining his position at the Department of Health and Human Services. It is unclear whether staff and budget will increase.

Reaction to the Thurman appointment was generally, but not universally, favorable.

Brian Bond is executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and knows Thurman "extremely well" from working with her on the 1996 reelection campaign. "I think she will be extremely effective," he said. "She understands the inner workings of the White House, she understands how those people think."

Human Rights Campaign executive director Elizabeth Birch called Thurman "a solid choice" who "brings the right mix of leadership, political skills and commitment to the fight against HIV and AIDS."

Daniel Zingale, executive director of the AIDS Action Council, saw the appointment as "an important step." But he added, "Much more remains to be done," and the appointment needs to be "followed by a significant investment in staff and budget resources to wage our nation's war against HIV."

Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), called on Thurman and the administration "to work with Congress to lift the ban on the use of federal funds for needle exchange programs, oppose H.R. 1062 (the Coburn bill)

that would require states to adopt mandatory HIV testing, and work for full funding for AIDS research, prevention, healthcare, and housing initiatives."

'Hack' at POZ

A negative review came from AIDS activist and POZ magazine publisher Sean Strub. "She's a hack," he said bluntly.

Steve Michael, with ACT UP/Washington, criticized Thurman as "the third in a series of ineffective, no-name bureaucrats filling the AIDS 'czar' position." He said she was "ousted" from her position with AID Atlanta over "increasing scrutiny over her clothing allowance and high salary."

That brought a tart denial from AID Atlanta. Board chair Ken Britt recounted how under Thurman's tenure the organization and budget grew from 13 to 90 employees. Her salary rose from \$35,000 to \$68,000. "Although she was reimbursed for a few expenses, Sandy had no travel budget, no car allowance, not even a budget for out-of-town meals."

Whispers and accusations behind the scenes are even sharper than what people will say on the record. Invectives of racism and sexism are hurled against those who have not embraced Goosby and Thurman. Some are afraid of her close ties to Title I cities, the CAEAR Coalition, and tainted AIDS lobbyist and fundraiser Tom Sheridan. The fissures between segments of the AIDS community seem to be getting worse. ▼

Hernandez appointed to presidential commission

by Cynthia Laird

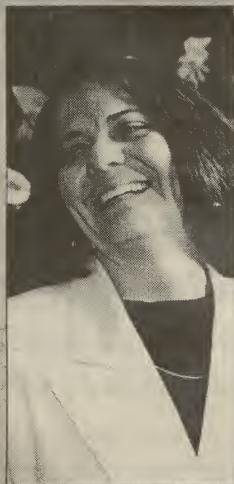
San Francisco's Health Director Dr. Sandra Hernandez was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the President's Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry, it was announced on March 27. Hernandez told the B.A.R. that she is one of two openly lesbian women on the panel.

"There are a lot of good people on it," Hernandez said, adding she's one of two Californians and the only Bay Area representative on the advisory body.

The 32-member commission has been charged with developing a "Consumer Bill of Rights" to promote and assure patient protection and healthcare quality. The advisory commission has wide representation from consumers, business, labor, healthcare providers, insurers, and quality and financing experts. They come from all parts of the country and reflect America's diverse population.

Hernandez said the commission held its first meeting March 26, and plans to meet monthly. The commission's goal is to advise the president on how unprecedented changes in the healthcare delivery system are affecting quality, consumer protection, and availability of needed services.

"First, to give the Clinton administration feedback and suggestions as Congress looks at all these bills," Hernandez said, refer-



Dr. Sandra Hernandez

Jane Pittman/Cleland

page 20 ►

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Interleukin-16, a possible new ally in the fight against HIV

by Marcos E. Garcia-Ojeda

One of the major challenges faced by scientists working on HIV is the restoration of a crippled immune system. Current antiretroviral therapies (including nucleoside analogues like AZT and protease inhibitors like zidovudine) are effective in minimizing the amount of viral particles present in the blood. In many people who use drug combinations including potent antivirals, viral load has been reduced to undetectable levels. When undetectable viral load is achieved and sustained, many experience a modest to large increase in helper (CD4+) T-cell numbers. However, complete immune restoration—that is, the elevation of CD4+ T-cell numbers to “normal” levels—has not been achieved.

One strategy used to boost T-cell numbers in HIV-positive patients is treatment with the cytokine Interleukin-2 (IL-2). IL-2 is a cytokine that makes T-cells grow and divide. Treatment with IL-2, however, has not provided the expected effects, resulting, on average, in only a modest increase in total T-cell numbers, together with a significant increase in viral load. Scientists have very recently begun examining another cytokine, IL-16, which may help boost T-cell levels when used in combination with IL-2.

Cytokines are immune system hormones produced by white blood cells to communicate messages to one another and are therefore becoming increasingly important areas of anti-HIV and immune restoration research. The immune system uses many cytokines to regulate immune re-

sponses. For example, some cytokines turn on the immune system during times of infection. Other cytokines shut down the immune response when the infection ends.

Scientific interest in IL-16 has arisen from the fact that some HIV-positive long term non-progressors have large numbers of CD8+ cells (also known as killer T-cells). CD8+ cells are white blood cells responsible for killing some tumor (cancer) cells and for killing cells infected with viruses. In long term non-progressors, CD8 cells show responses against HIV-infected cells. CD8+ cells also produce chemical factors that have anti-viral qualities. One of these factors is called CAF (CD8 T-cell Anti-viral Factor), first described by Dr. J. A. Levy at UCSF as having the capacity to suppress HIV replication. Other factors produced by CD8+ T-cells include other cytokine family members called chemokines, such as RANTES and MIP-1 alpha, implicated by Dr. R. Gallo from NIH as agents capable of blocking HIV infectivity. CD8+ T-cells also produce another cytokine, interleukin-16 (IL-16).

Prevents infection, replication

IL-16 was first described in 1982 by Dr. D. Center and Dr. W. Cruikshank of the Pulmonary Center at the Boston University School of Medicine. IL-16 attracts CD4+ T-cells to a location of tissue damage or infection. IL-16 binds to the CD4 molecule, which is also used by HIV to gain entry into T-cells. In CD4+ T-cells, IL-16 treatment turns on the expression of the receptor that binds IL-2. Without this receptor, T-cells

do not respond to IL-2 treatment.

Because CD8+ T-cells produce IL-16 and CAF, scientists have recently done experiments to find out if IL-16, too, has antiviral properties. Dr. Michael Baier at the Paul-Ehrlich-Institut in Germany showed that, in white blood cells, IL-16 could repress the replication of both HIV and Simian Immunodeficiency Virus (SIV, which is a close relative of HIV but only infects monkeys). By infecting human CD4+ T-cells with a laboratory strain of HIV, Dr. Baier showed that IL-16 could greatly reduce the production of HIV viruses by the infected cells. Since IL-16 and HIV both use the CD4 molecule to enter T-cells, it was postulated that IL-16 inhibits HIV by simply blocking its attachment to the CD4 molecule.

Other experiments by Dr. Joseph Maciaszek and his colleagues at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center suggest that IL-16 also acts to prevent HIV replication in infected cells. They conducted experiments to show that treatment with IL-16 represses HIV because IL-16 induces a signal inside the CD4+ T-cell that blocks the activation of HIV genes. In their experiments, these scientists engineered a “reporter” gene connected to a piece of DNA from HIV that regulates HIV’s gene expression. The re-

porter gene produces a harmless enzyme called CAT, which can be measured in the test tube. When this reporter gene connected to the piece of HIV’s DNA is put inside CD4+ T-cells, scientists can follow HIV’s gene expression by looking at the production of CAT by the cells: more CAT means that the HIV gene expression has been turned on.

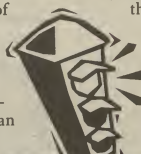
With this simple assay, Dr. Maciaszek and co-workers showed that IL-16 treatment prevented the production of CAT enzyme, showing that it inhibited the activation of HIV genes. This finding argues against the hypothesis that IL-16 blocks HIV by simply inhibiting its attachment to CD4 and entry into the T-cell.

The possibilities of the Maciaszek finding are very promising because they suggest that IL-2 and IL-16, used together, could help increase the number of T-cells without increasing HIV viral load. This is exactly what Dr. Nereida Parada at the Boston University School of Medicine has shown. In February 1997, at the American Association of Immunologist meeting in San Francisco, Dr. Parada presented data demonstrating that IL-16 together with IL-2 increases the number of CD4+ T-cells in a culture system, CD4+ T-cells obtained either from uninfected or HIV-infected individuals. This effect was only

evident when the two cytokines acted together; neither IL-2 nor IL-16 alone increased the number of CD4+ T-cells in the culture. Moreover, treatment with IL-16 could provide inhibitory signals inside the T-cell, possibly preventing an increase in viral load while IL-2 induces CD4+ T-cells to multiply. This hypothesis needs further testing.

Important questions remain about the use of IL-16 by HIV-positive people. First, can the HIV inhibitory signals given by IL-16 prevent the increase in viral load resulting from IL-2 treatment? (While more direct research is needed to answer this question, the data indicates that there is a good chance the answer is yes.) Second, which signal would dominate: the HIV inhibitory signal from IL-16 or the signal inducing HIV gene expression from IL-2? Finally, and most importantly, would we see an increase of CD4 T-cells resulting from IL-2 and IL-16 treatment in humans, as has been seen in lab cultures? To the knowledge of this writer, these experiments have been done only in the laboratory setting and not in monkeys or humans. Tests to examine the synergistic effect of IL-2 and IL-16 treatment in humans and further clinical studies are needed to address these issues. ▼

Marcos E. Garcia-Ojeda is a graduate student in the Immunology Program at Stanford University.



ACT UP

Berkeley needle

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clials believe NEED is a success; only about ten percent of Berkeley’s intravenous drug users (IDUs) have AIDS, compared with 20.5 percent in Contra Costa County.

“We have seen a decrease in people who have AIDS and who are injection drug users since NEED’s been in operation,” Rogers told the B.A.R. “We [the city] think funding services that support needle exchange are a good thing.”

Reached after the meeting, Rogers said the state did not budge regarding the grant.

“The state held firm not to fund needle exchange or ancillary services,” he said, adding he’ll be looking at various options.

Lungren, Wilson ...again

The \$10,000 was designated to support NEED’s HIV reduction efforts by allowing the organization to rent space for storage, hold staff meetings and trainings, and provide community resources for clients. The money would not have been spent to purchase or distribute syringes.

The grant is administered by the state and distributed by the city’s HIV Prevention Community Planning Committee (HPCPC). NEED was awarded the funds on March 22; state officials blocked the agency from receiving them a few days later.

State officials instructed

Rogers not to distribute the HIV prevention funds to NEED. On orders originating from Governor Pete Wilson and Attorney General Dan Lungren, state Office of AIDS Chief Wayne Sauceda informed the Berkeley HPCPC that even though the funds were not for the purchase or distribution of syringes, the funds could not go to NEED because of the group’s history of and association with syringe exchange activities.

“The governor has made it clear that state money can’t be used,” Rassmussen said, adding that the grant consisted of state money.

Rogers said the city has an ongoing state of emergency regarding needle exchange similar to the one in San Francisco.

David Modersbach of NEED told the B.A.R. that state money was mixed with federal funds at least in part so that the NEED grant could be disallowed.

“The CDC has stated that syringe exchange is effective and necessary, the state of California HIV Prevention Plan and the City of Berkeley Prevention Community Plan specifically state the importance of expanded syringe-exchange in reducing the spread of HIV,” Modersbach said.

Rassmussen agreed the state’s HIV prevention plan does discuss the effectiveness of needle exchange programs. There’s also a letter signed by all 54 people who developed the plan that states they understand not all prevention activities can be funded, he added. ▼



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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Robert A. Dean

Nov. 2, 1965 - April 6, 1997



Our beloved Rob peacefully passed away on the morning of Sunday, April 6, with a smile on his face. He was surrounded and comforted by his dear friends, Diana and Mark, and his loving partner, Phillip. His "Good morning, Sunshine" and loving presence will be greatly missed by all lucky enough to have met him.

Rob is survived by his mother, Roberta; his father and stepmother, Gordon and Laura; sister and brother, Andrea and Richard; their families; stepbrothers, Randy and Ryan; and stepdaughter, Tanya. He was preceded in death by his stepbrother, Ross, and loving grandparents.

Rob had great loving support from his family and many cherished friends. Donations in his memory may be made to Project Open Hand and the AIDS Emergency Fund. A celebration of his life will be held on Sunday, April 20, in San Francisco. Please call Philip (626-6087), Mark (707/255-2992) or Diana (510/778-3238) for details.

You will forget they are gone and then remember again, and your heart will break one more time. We love you, Rob!

William Thomas Gordon

April 1, 1997



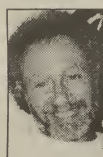
William Thomas Gordon entered into peace on April 1. He was the beloved son of Eb and Barbara Keller of San Jose, Calif.; loving brother of Samantha Tuttle and Raymond Gordon; and

devoted partner of Bryan Goodrich. He is survived by many loving relatives and friends.

Bill was a dear, dear friend. We will miss his beautiful smile. Friends are invited to a memorial service on Saturday, April 12, at 5 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St., San Francisco.

Melvin Kirsch

Sept. 20, 1935 - March 30, 1997



Melvin lost his battle with lymphoma early Sunday morning on March 30. Mel settled in San Francisco in the '70s after living in Philadelphia, New Orleans, New York and Memphis.

Thought about Mel: He was a collector, a bargain hunter, a Memphis State graduate, a telephone talker, a bit of an adventurer, a great salesman, a bundle of energy, a Southerner, a brother, an uncle and a friend.

Mel will be laid to rest next to his mother in Memphis. He will be missed by his friends in San Francisco and around the country. Mel is survived by his brothers, Jack and Joe Kirsch, and family.

John Christopher Kuehn

Oct. 9, 1947 - March 14, 1997

Chris Kuehn - adventurer, sailor, student of life, lover of music, dogs, kayaking and horseback riding - passed on in his sleep at Bailey-Boushay House, an AIDS residence in Seattle, on Friday, March 14.

Chris was a lifelong traveler and



adventurer. From a first-grade class in England to a year of high school in Belgium to a brief stay in New Zealand, he loved to explore new places and people - in boats, on horseback or on foot.

His sense of humor and style, his good cooking and optimism, carried him well through a rich, productive life.

Chris studied French, dentistry, architecture and computers. For most of his professional career, he served as computer whiz for Shackle Corporation in San Francisco; Fannie Mae (the Federal National Mortgage Association) in Washington, D.C.; and Aldus Corporation (now Adobe) in Seattle.

Chris was a founding member of the Vashon Gay Pride Alliance and served on the board of AIDS Housing of Washington.

He is survived by his loving parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Kuehn; sister, Theresa Ann Keresztes; brother, Robert Andrew Kuehn; and a large extended family of faithful, loving friends.

Memorials can be sent to AIDS Housing of Washington, 2025 First Ave., No. 420, Seattle, WA 98121. A room will be dedicated in Chris' memory at the Lyon Building in downtown Seattle, a house for people with AIDS.

Mike Valent

March 20, 1997

Siempre estara con nosotros, Hermano. We will always remember and respect the memories that you shared with us, especially your defiant fight against the killer that took your life from us without remorse.

Mike died on March 20, without medication that could have prolonged his 29 years, on a medical unit at the Utah State Prison. He was counted as a statistic instead of a human being.

Mike is survived by his mother, Angela of Magna, Utah; and his friends, J. Sever of San Francisco; B. Wright of Salt Lake City, Utah; V. Bradley of Ogden, Utah; J. Baker of Salt Lake City; R. Trujillo of Price, Utah; J. Carroll of Salt Lake City; G. Waffer of Queens, N.Y.; K. Rugg of Granada Hills, Calif.; and the rest of those who knew him in Wasatch-Baker North.

Hernandez

◀ page 18

ring to healthcare bills that are expected to be introduced in Congress.

Secondly, the commission is expected to develop a "consumer

bill of rights," which Hernandez feels is the most exciting part of the panel's task.

"The talk about healthcare reform has been in terms of financing. Now, finally, the focus will turn to quality, and how to protect people," she said.

Hernandez brings a broad-

based public health orientation to the advisory commission. Among her recent accomplishments, Hernandez serves as chair of the governing board of the San Francisco Health Authority, which is the locally developed health maintenance organization (HMO) responsible for creating a Medi-Cal managed care system for the city.

Under the direction of Mayor Willie Brown, Hernandez is chairing a blue ribbon committee on universal healthcare, which will explore avenues to provide healthcare coverage to an estimated 120,000 uninsured San Franciscans. The city's model, similar to those embraced by the presidential advisory commission, stresses education, quality, and access to available services.

The commission will submit a final report by March 30, 1998. The panel is co-chaired by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Labor. Vice President Al Gore will review the final report before it is submitted to the president. ▼

Rich Wilson



Oct. 12, 1956 - Apr. 4, 1997

Rich entered final peace on April 4, 1997 at the young age of 40. A native of southern California, he was educated at Cal State Long Beach and San Jose State. Rich relocated to Guerneville on the Russian River after several years in Hawaii.

Owner of the ever popular Russian River Resort (the Triple "R"), Rich is lovingly survived by his father, Robert Wilson of Irvine, CA; his sister, Susan Diane Godfrey, and her husband Joe of Reseda, CA. He also leaves and will be sadly missed by his beloved "Ginnie," close "brothers" Ray, Allen, Jeff, Paul, Kevin, L.J., Rob, Bart and many others too numerous to mention, all of whom were his "family."

Rich possessed a zest for life that was unmatched.

Generous and supportive of others, Rich was actively involved with and sponsored numerous fundraising events for local and state AIDS and cancer organizations.

In his memory the Triple R will go on and continue his good works. Friends are invited to attend funeral services to be held at Guerneville Redwood Chapel, Guerneville, on April 8, 1997 at 2 pm with a reception and celebration immediately following at the Triple R. Donations in Rich's name will be gladly accepted at Food For Thought or Face to Face, Sonoma County, or the charity of your choice.

AKA "Ms. Virginia Manners"
WE LOVE YOU



Gerard "Jerry" Zick
April 13, 1995

Always remembered
Always loved

OBITUARIES

Allen Ginsberg dies at 70

One of the best minds of his generation

United Press International

Gay poet Allen Ginsberg, who helped make San Francisco's North Beach the center of the literary Beat movement, died Saturday, April 5 at his New York City apartment. He was 70.

Ginsberg's doctor had announced Thursday the poet was suffering from terminal liver cancer, and gave him four months to a year to live. But Ginsberg's health took a turn for the worse on Friday, when doctors said he suffered a stroke or another complication.

Ginsberg, who suffered from a long-running battle against hepatitis C and cirrhosis of the liver, is said to have worked nearly to

the end, writing his last poem on April 2.

Beat writer Gregory Corso, novelist Kurt Vonnegut Jr., punk rocker Patti Smith, and ex-Velvet Undergrounder Lou Reed were among those who gathered for Ginsberg's memorial service Monday at the Shambhala Meditation Center in New York.

Reed, speaking at the service, said that without Ginsberg there would have been no rock group called the Velvet Underground, and recalled the poet banging a gong and ringing bells as the cult '60s group played its epic "Heroin."

Ginsberg, *On the Road* author Jack Kerouac, and *Naked Lunch* writer William S. Burroughs emerged as the leading figures of

the Beat movement that came out of the 1950s underground. They drew on bebop jazz, heroin, Eastern mysticism, and sexual liberation for inspiration.

Ginsberg's most famous work, *Howl*, was published in 1956, serving as the voice of the Beat generation.

The poem's drug-induced verse, including the famous opening line, "I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness," harkened a new style in American poetry.

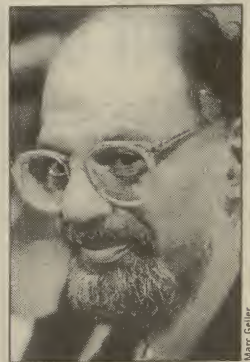
Critics accused *Howl* of being obscene for its common language and blatantly gay overtones. The poem withstood several legal challenges against its publication, including in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Bob Dylan, who has sung duets with Ginsberg, has called the poet "the greatest influence on the American poetic voice since Whitman."

Finding Che 'cute'

Ginsberg was born June 3, 1926, in Newark, N.J. He graduated in 1948 from Columbia University in New York, where he met Kerouac and Burroughs. In 1955, Ginsberg quit his job at a New York advertising agency and moved to San Francisco, where he met bookstore owner, poet and publisher Lawrence Ferlinghetti, as well as Peter Orlovsky, who would become his lover in a relationship lasting three decades.

In the 1960s and 70s, the poet turned his interests to anti-war



Allen Ginsberg

politics, and traveled widely in the 1980s. During the summers, he taught at the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colo.

Throughout his life, according to the *New York Times*, he was expelled from at least two communist countries: Czechoslovakia, after dissident students crowned him "King of the May," and Cuba, after he called Che Guevara "cute."

Ginsberg spent the last decade of his life writing and teaching at the City University of New York's Brooklyn College.

Corso and other friends were at Ginsberg's side when he died. Lucien Carr, whom author David Halberstam in his book *The Fifties* dubbed the father of the Beat Generation and the man who is credited with bringing Kerouac and Ginsberg together at Columbia University, also spoke with him and visited his bedside before he died. ▼

In appreciation: Marvin Liebman

by Bob Roehr

Marvin Liebman, 73, died of heart disease in Washington on March 31. He was best known to the gay community through his 1992 autobiography *Coming Out Conservative* and a subsequent column that ran in many gay newspapers. Above all else, he espoused principled common sense.

Liebman lived much of his life in the closet, coming out publicly only at the age of 67. His political journey was even more dramatic, starting as an activist with the Young Communist League, discharged from the Army during World War II for homosexuality, fighting with Irgun to establish the state of Israel.

He was befriended by William F. Buckley in the 1950s, beginning his long service to conservative organizations and to the political campaigns of Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan. He pioneered many of the fundraising and direct mail techniques that have become standard practice in political and issue campaigns.

Liebman lay his coming out in



Marvin Liebman

part to rising homophobia among the far right. As he wrote in his autobiography, he began to feel "like a Jew in Germany in 1934 who had chosen to remain silent, hoping to be able to stay invisible as he watched the beginning of the Holocaust."

I had the good fortune of knowing Marvin in his later years. He was a remarkable man on several counts, perhaps none more so than his open, positive, and friendly

manner. He treated all people with respect, enjoyed talking with them, and valued their opinions whether he agreed with them or not.

He inspired fierce loyalty across a broad spectrum of views. A few years back, activists Michael Petrelis and Michaelangelo Signorile sat on the same couch in Marvin's apartment with the very conservative Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-California). It

was a birthday party for their host. He attracted a bevy of young men who valued his wisdom, his experience, and the way he discussed things without condescension. It was mentoring in the best sense of the word.

Marvin Liebman's life was filled with passion for causes, yet he never lost sight that underneath the cause we are all human beings. He will be missed. ▼

Comm. center

◀ page 4

The designs of the five finalists will be subjected to review by the CCP's cost estimator, to ensure they can be built within the designated \$5.5 million construction budget.

At the April 19 event, the five finalists are expected to make presentations to the jury and the public, which will be invited to make comments and ask questions of the architecture teams. At the conclusion of the presentations, the winner will be selected and invited to negotiate a contract with the CCP board of directors.

Next month the CCP will embark on a capital campaign to raise \$2.5 million from corporations, foundations, and individuals. The campaign begins officially on May 18 with a \$1,000 fundraiser at Stars restaurant. Similar events are planned throughout the year.

For those who can't afford that much money, individual memberships are available for \$35 per

person or \$50 for families. There's even a reduced rate of \$15 for individuals with special needs.

Shafer pointed out that in developing plans for the center, the CCP held focus groups representing every aspect of the community. Key components of the facility are expected to include abundant meeting space, an auditorium, office space for nonprofit organizations with shared support services, Internet access and video-conferencing capability, classes and workshops, and commercial space.

The center is expected to open in 1999 if all goes according to schedule, Shafer said. ▼

The April 17 community forum will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in Room 300 of the San Francisco Health Department, 101 Grove Street. The April 19 meeting and presentation by architects will start at 9:30 a.m. in Room 207 at City Hall, 401 Van Ness Avenue. For more information about the community center, including memberships, call (415) 241-1526.

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Mall or nothing

barattare [bara'tare] to barter something for something (francobolli, una stadia, una città)
baratro ['baratro] abyss
barare [ba'rare] to cheat

To: Eddie DeBartolo, DeBartolo & Company, San Francisco 49ers Owner

Dear Mr. DeBartolo, After my private meeting with some of your players, I am glad that we were finally able to work out a feasible plan for me to finally endorse the construction of the StadioMall in San Francisco's China Basin. Even at this late hour, your plan should get all it deserves.

I agree with the great 49ers ball club. If the boys don't want to play in an old windy stadium, we should get them a new one. In fact, since \$100,000,000 is actually only the cumulative salary of barely over a dozen players, it should only be up to that many players to decide.

I agree thoroughly with your vision of employing thousands, and that the \$100,000,000 from our fair city will more than help out, now that that darn minimum wage has been skyjacked to a whopping \$5 per hour. Since the bond will cost each of a million taxpayers a hundred dollars, it is only fair that we alleviate this expense by hiring them to work at the StadioMall. It will be a great opportunity to see our underpriv-

ileged youth tossing fries with municipal and athletic support.

As a member of the gay and lesbian community, I also feel that the StadioMall will serve as a forum for inclusiveness, bringing together people who may not interact otherwise. What better place for straights and gays alike to iron out their differences of opinion than in the stands of a rousing athletic event, on Bat Day, perhaps, and over a few beers? Also, to cheer the ill and AIDS-afflicted, lacking proper healthcare, they will be able to spend more

time relaxing at a ballgame. A city subsidy like this one benefits everyone. The city's worries and problems can be avoided and forgotten thanks to the thrilling spectacle of athletics.

I also agree with your progressive aesthetic policy regarding shopping and social arenas for the modern society. The days of individual business enterprises cluttering up shopping areas with their clashing decor and architecture are over. The ambience of 21st Century society should continue to be democratic, the same everywhere, and in an enclosed environment, thus preparing future Americans for space travel, yet another investment opportunity I am sure you are considering.

I greatly anticipate the efficiency that will undoubtedly incur during, and following, the construction of this great arena. The



Something for everyone: The new stadium will be the site of many spectacles, not just football!

decision by our Great Mayor to reroute all MUNI lines away from the stadium will, of course, also increase municipal funds, thanks to our metermaids and municipal tow trucks. Recalling the greater eras of our communal ethnic history, it is important to remember that under the regime of *Il Duce*, the trains ran on time, but under our mayor, *Il Bruno*, they will not run at all. A marvelous system of fiscal turnaround!

I also eagerly anticipate the further employment that will be

incurred during rebuilding. As any contractor knows, buildings don't age as well as they used to, especially in flat, sandy low topographic zones in one of the most seismically vulnerable areas in the world. When I think of all the union workers who will be employed to continually repair this ingeniously-designed architectural wonder, following every minor quake, it does my heart good.

I further agree with your plan of inclusiveness. I don't think there are enough Pizza Huts, Wendy's, and Reebok stores in the Bay Area. Businesses with a previously misunderstood history of racial, sexual, and gender abuse in employment, investment, and customer treatment should get a chance, too! Certainly, every fan

of football will be thrilled to know that should they spill a beverage on their slacks, they can merely de-escalate to the mall area for a fresh pair of Dockers. It is, sir, if I may say so, ingenious.

I shall be contacting you soon for the further working out of the specifics regarding my complimentary post-game locker room lifetime pass, as well as the contractual refinements with my associate's Prostate Massage Clinic for pro ball players. The logistics of the Rainbow Boutique 'n' Suds and the Men's Room security cameras should be referred to my associate, Mr. DeNunzio.

Thanking you again for the bag of money,
 Sincerely,
 Jim Provenzano ▼

Protease Inhibitors

Timing

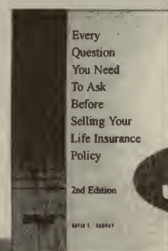
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49ers

◀ page 3

pressed with this?"

"I can't tell you to be impressed," Policy responded. "All I can tell you is what we have done, what we have planned on doing, how we have discussed this situation, how we can become cognizant of the situation, and I think that there's a symbolism connected to this, and because the 49ers are respected in the world of professional sports, I think it sends a message out that can be a very positive message that it can be very helpful in making people more aware of this piece of legislation, of what the concept of domestic partners actually is."

Gay team members?

When asked if the 49ers would have enacted such a policy if the stadium deal election were not only two months away, Policy had less to say. "I can't honestly tell you yes or no. It was the efforts of the people who sought to enforce the law that brought this thing to our attention and made it become an issue. It means something to the people of this community. It means something to the Board of Supervisors, therefore it means something to us."

Policy did not say whom the new policy would specifically benefit — how many employees, and what positions they play. He did say that "approximately 220 employees" would be eligible for the policy.

In answer to the big question, "Are there gay players on the

49ers?" Policy said, "I don't know if I would answer, 'Are there straight members?' It's a situation that I would think is not relevant, because that relates to the personal lives of our employees. That relates to their particular choice and orientation."

"If there are ... this ... obviously enhances their lifestyle, and if there aren't today, and there very well may be, several, uh, gay and lesbian members of our staff, there may be tomorrow, and I think that we not only have to view it from the perspective of the relevance that it has on today's staff, it's tomorrow's staff."

When asked point-blank if any players had come to him and said they were gay, Policy said, "I wouldn't answer that question. When players come and talk to me, we have an understanding that we're talking one-on-one, and there's a sense of confidentiality. If a player comes and tells me that he's happily married and it's the most wonderful thing that ever happened to him, that stays with the two of us."

When asked if other professional football teams might also adopt domestic partnership policies with their employees and players, Policy was enthusiastic. "With this type of step, with this kind of a pronouncement, that's relevant to their community, they're going to do it."

The 49ers franchise is owned by Eddie DeBartolo, who owns many other mall and entertainment businesses around the country. None of DeBartolo's other businesses have a domestic partners policy. ▼

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212326
The following person(s) are doing business as WEBLETS.COM, 3569 Pierce St., San Francisco, CA 94123; Patricia Corrigan, 3569 Pierce St., San Francisco, CA 94123. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Patricia Corrigan. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 17, 1997.
March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212323
The following person(s) are doing business as GARDENVIEW PRODUCTS, 967 Natoma St., San Francisco, CA 94103; 2514: Rolf M. Erickson, 967 Natoma St., San Francisco, CA 94103-2514. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Rolf Erickson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 17, 1997.
March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211907
The following person(s) are doing business as ZIANS SERVICE, 708 Washington St., Daly City, CA 94015; Todd Wyane Christiansen, 708 Washington St., Daly City, CA 94015; Joyce Christiansen, 708 Washington St., Daly City, CA 94015. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of January 1, 1997. This business is conducted by husband and wife. Signed Todd Christiansen. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 28, 1997.
March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211763
The following person(s) are doing business as DAVIS/SCHWARTZ DESIGN, 49A Walter St., San Francisco, CA 94114; Neal J.Z. Schwartz, 49A Walter St., San Francisco, CA 94114; Diane M. Davis 110 Frederick St #3, San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of January 1, 1997. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed Diane M. Davis/Neal Schwartz. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 24, 1997.
March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212274
The following person(s) are doing business as CORPORATE TAX SERVICES, 12 Southern Heights Ave., San Francisco, CA 94107; Seda Taysi, 12 Southern Heights Ave., San Francisco, CA 94107. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of January 1, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Seda Taysi. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 14, 1997.
March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212253
The following person(s) are doing business as MINI BLIND MAIDS, 40 Gaven St. #4, San Francisco, CA 94134; Larry J. Fields, 40 Gaven St. #4, San Francisco, CA 94134. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Larry Fields. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 13, 1997.
March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211836
The following person(s) are doing business as TOP DECK CRUISES, 2265 Market

St., San Francisco, CA 94114; BCC Travel, Inc. (CA), 2265 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of February 26, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Daniel R. Billings, Sec/Treasurer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 23, 1997.
March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212186
The following person(s) are doing business as MIKE MOBILE, 3810 Noriega St., San Francisco, CA 94122; Michael Richard Trealy, 3810 Noriega St., San Francisco, CA 94122. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 12, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Mike Trealy. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 12, 1997.
March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 985225
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of MICHAEL ANDREW YACKOWSKI for change of name. The application of MICHAEL ANDREW YACKOWSKI for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that MICHAEL ANDREW YACKOWSKI has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to MICHAEL ANDREWS. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 29th day of April, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 11th day of March, 1997.
March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212530
The following person(s) are doing business as 1. BARBARY COAST BREWING, 2. BARBARY COAST BREWERY, 3. BARBARY COAST BREWING COMPANY, 527 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801; Barbary Coast Brewing Company, LLC (CA), 527 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 31, 1995. This business is conducted by a limited liability company. Signed Deborah Hall. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 24, 1997.
March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212512
The following person(s) are doing business as INSTITUTE OF HOLISTIC HEALTH, 3928 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; Steven Joseph Ziemba, 3928 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 24, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Steven J. Ziemba. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 24, 1997.
March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212346
The following person(s) are doing business as VOX POP 77 Federal St., 2nd floor, San Francisco, CA 94107; Christine Triano, 1600 Fell St., #109, San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business

name on the date of March 1, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Christine Triano. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 17, 1997.
March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212750
The following person(s) are doing business as THE BEAUTY NETWORK, 3748 Geary Francisco, CA 94115; Michael Patterson, 825 Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94118. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Michael Patterson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 17, 1997.
April 3, 10, 17, 24, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212505
The following person(s) are doing business as JS CONSULTING GROUP, INC., 105 Esplanade Dr., #56, Pacifica, CA 94044; JS Consulting Group, Inc. (CA), 105 Esplanade Dr., #56, Pacifica, CA 94044. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 17, 1997. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Stella J. Javier, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 21, 1997.
April 3, 10, 17, 24, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212617
The following person(s) are doing business as EUROPAFAC SEARCH COMPANY, 738 Clipper Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; Rale Oelschlaeger, 738 Clipper Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 26, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Rale Oelschlaeger. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 26, 1997.
April 3, 10, 17, 24, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212583
The following person(s) are doing business as THE EXILES, 1350 Shotwell Street, San Francisco, CA 94110-4624; Karen L. Kircher, 1350 Shotwell Street, San Francisco, CA 94110-4624. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an unincorporated association. Signed Karen L. Kircher. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 25, 1997.
April 3, 10, 17, 24, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212906
The following person(s) are doing business as CYBERWOLVES, 2807 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114; Donald Bruce Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 4, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Donald Tombe. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 4, 1997.
April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212902
The following person(s) are doing business as Yumi-Matsumoto, 1 Daniel Burnham Court, unit #805, San Francisco, CA 94109; Nobu Yuki Matsumoto, 1 Daniel Burnham Court, #805, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 4, 1997. This business is conducted by a husband and wife. Signed

LEGAL NOTICES

Yumi Matsumoto. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 4, 1997.
April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212875
The following person(s) are doing business as OHHLINGER DESIGN GROUP, 307 30th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121; Jacob John Ohlinger, 307 30th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 3, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jacob J. Ohlinger. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 3, 1997.
April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212872
The following person(s) are doing business as THE BEAUTY NETWORK, 3748 Geary Francisco, CA 94115; Michael Patterson, 825 Lake Street, San Francisco, CA 94118. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Michael Patterson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 17, 1997.
April 3, 10, 17, 24, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212505
The following person(s) are doing business as JS CONSULTING GROUP, INC., 105 Esplanade Dr., #56, Pacifica, CA 94044; JS Consulting Group, Inc. (CA), 105 Esplanade Dr., #56, Pacifica, CA 94044. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 17, 1997. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Stella J. Javier, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 21, 1997.
April 3, 10, 17, 24, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212617
The following person(s) are doing business as EUROPAFAC SEARCH COMPANY, 738 Clipper Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; Rale Oelschlaeger, 738 Clipper Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 26, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Rale Oelschlaeger. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 26, 1997.
April 3, 10, 17, 24, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212583
The following person(s) are doing business as THE EXILES, 1350 Shotwell Street, San Francisco, CA 94110-4624; Karen L. Kircher, 1350 Shotwell Street, San Francisco, CA 94110-4624. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an unincorporated association. Signed Karen L. Kircher. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on March 25, 1997.
April 3, 10, 17, 24, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212906
The following person(s) are doing business as CYBERWOLVES, 2807 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94114; Donald Bruce Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 4, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Donald Tombe. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 4, 1997.
April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212902
The following person(s) are doing business as Yumi-Matsumoto, 1 Daniel Burnham Court, unit #805, San Francisco, CA 94109; Nobu Yuki Matsumoto, 1 Daniel Burnham Court, #805, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 4, 1997. This business is conducted by a husband and wife. Signed

City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 3, 1997.
April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212774
The following person(s) are doing business as LARK IN THE MORNING MUSIQUE SHOPPE, 2801 Leavenworth, San Francisco, CA 94133; Allen M. Zekley, 43020 Road 409, Mendocino, CA 95460. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 1, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Allen M. Zekley. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 1, 1997.
April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 212815
The following person(s) are doing business as BAREMEDIA BARE MEDIA, 250 Clinton park, San Francisco, CA 94103; John W. Rare, 250 Clinton Park, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 1, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John W. Rare. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on April 2, 1997.
April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 1997.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS

THE SAN FRANCISCO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SEEKS RESPONSES TO A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) TO DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS FOR SENIOR DEPUTY SHERIFF AND SHERIFF'S SERGEANT. EACH EXAMINATION WILL BE DEVELOPED AND ADMINISTERED UNDER THE LAWS AND RULES GOVERNING THE CIVIL SERVICE MERIT SYSTEM OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO (CITY), AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE GUIDELINES AND APPROVAL OF THE CITY'S DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL, AND YOU WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THE RFP, PLEASE CONTACT:

LT. PHILIP TUTT / SAN FRANCISCO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
555 7TH STREET / SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94103
(415) 553-9600

THE DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS IS MAY 9, 1997 AT 5:00 P.M. THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS. MB AND WBE PROPOSALS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.

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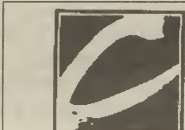
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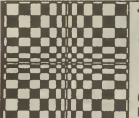
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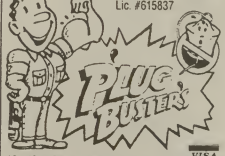
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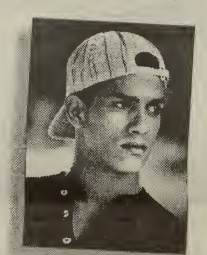
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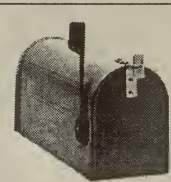
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A public health message from the National Minority AIDS Council and the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association in cooperation with Glaxo Wellcome.

Aaron Shurin describes how AIDS forced him to find a new way to deal with an overwhelming responsibility. **page 33**

Poet Alfred Corn turns to prose in his debut novel, 'Part of His Story.' **page 32**



Murder most muddled: Erin Blackwell on Yvonne Rainer's latest at SFMOMA. **page 35**



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 15 • 10 April 1997

Dangerous liaisons

FILMMAKER ARTHUR DONG
WANTS YOU TO BE UNCOMFORTABLE

by Wayne Hoffman

Despite winning prizes and international accolades, director Arthur Dong seems especially pleased that people are walking out on his new film.

Licensed to Kill, Dong's haunting documentary about men who murder homosexuals, won the Best Documentary Director Award and the Filmmakers' Trophy Award at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year. At the Berlin International Film Festival this spring, the film provoked particularly long and heated discussions after its screening. However, Dong claims that a greater measure of his film's success is that several viewers in Berlin left during the movie. They apologized to Dong afterward, explaining that the film was simply too disturbing. The filmmaker takes this as proof of the work's power.

"Not that I want my whole audience to leave in the middle," he says. "I want the audience to stay and get a three-dimensional picture of what these men's lives are all about. But I did want the film to be so intense that they would feel uncomfortable and perhaps want to leave."

That slow-burning, pit-of-the-stomach intensity is something Dong spent years cultivating. While the film took less than two years to produce, its roots stretch back decades. Dong's interest in exploring the intersection of sex and violence even predates his first film, from 1970. (*Public*, Dong's animated five-minute debut, also brought his first award, from the California High School Film Festival.)

"Since my early teenage years, I've been curious about sex, violence and social mores, how one affects the other and how our society dictates how we behave sometimes," he says. "It's partly be-

"I hope this film tells us that despite the progress we've made, they still want to kill us. They still hate us, and it's not as safe as we think."

cause of my sexual orientation, and because I've been brought up to know that gay people's lives often end up in violence."

Dong had his own brush with violence 20 years ago in San Francisco, when he narrowly escaped an attack by gay-bashers. But at that point, Dong couldn't commit his experiences to film. He says he needed more time to "grow up," as both a man and a filmmaker, before he could tackle the subject adequately.

Right angle

Dong started a film on anti-gay attacks in 1982, but he couldn't find the right approach. He considered following community and anti-violence patrols, but it didn't click. He considered telling victims' stories, but saw that others were already covering this ground. He put the idea on hold and focused on other projects: a series of

page 36 ►

Marc Geller

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BOOKS

Who was Frances Marion?

New bio reveals forgotten movie giant

by Matthew Kennedy

Without Lying Down: Frances Marion and the Powerful Women of Early Hollywood by Cari Beauchamp; Scribner, \$25

Chances are, when you think of early Hollywood, you do not think of Frances Marion. The history of American movies is sadly mired in a tired litany of familiar names: Chaplin, Pickford, Valentino, Griffith, Sen- net, Gish. Marion belongs among them, for without her, entire careers fundamental to motion pictures would be unrecognizable and unimaginable.

Cari Beauchamp, who wrote the well-received Cannes Film Festival history *Hollywood on the Riviera*, has exhumed the life of this neglected giant of the movies. The results are an affectionate and exceptionally well-researched new biography, *Without Lying Down: Frances Marion and the Powerful Women of Early Hollywood*.

The brilliant and prolific screenwriter was born into a patrician San Francisco family in 1888. She showed a restless and creative intellect early, dabbling in drawing, acting, modeling and journalism, while failing at two misbegotten marriages.

In 1915, Marion began writing scenarios for Paramount and its young star, Mary Pickford. She landed a financially rewarding position at World Pictures, where she cranked out 16 five- and six-reel scenarios in 1916 alone. Among them were *The Foundling* with Pickford, and *Then I'll Come Back to You*, *La Vie de Bohème*, and *Tangled Fates* with the delightful Alice Brady. She penned *Tillie Wakes Up* for her close friend Marie Dressler, the expansive comedienne she met when she was a cub reporter with the *San Francisco Examiner*.

Life on Cloud Nine

During World War I, Marion was one of the first female war correspondents to report on actual battles in Europe. After the war, her career and private life zoomed onto Cloud Nine. She wrote *Poor Little Rich Girl* for Pickford, which they both hated until it became a runaway hit. That followed nearly a dozen other stories for Pickford which defined her to the public and ensured her place in Hollywood history. Other leading stars of silent films benefited from Marion's golden pen, including Norma Talmadge, Marion Davies, Richard Barthelmess, Eleanor Boardman, Mae Murray, Lewis Stone, Ronald Colman, Bessie Love, Blanche Sweet, and Lionel Barrymore.

Marion authored *Son of the Sheik* for Rudolph Valentino in 1926. As a great admirer of male pulchritude, she created stories for her hunky third husband, Fred Thomson, who moved from world-class athlete to major matinee idol under her guidance. They were among the richest couples in Hollywood and entertained royally at their Enchanted Hill, a 17-acre Beverly Hills estate.

Marion made the leap from silent screen scenarist to talkie dialogue and screenwriter with ease. When sound swept the industry in the late 1920s, she settled into the infant Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio, where she wrote or adapted hits for Norma Shearer (*Their*



Frances Marion

Own Desire and *Let Us Be Gay*), Greta Garbo (*Anna Christie* and *Camille*), Wallace Beery (*The Big House* and *The Champ*), and most everyone on the lot in the star-heavy *Dinner at Eight*. She rescued her old friend Dressler from the trash heap of vaudeville oblivion and wrote scripts (*Min and Bill* and *Emma*) that transformed the sexagenarian into the world's leading box-office draw. A final tally shows Marion with almost 150 scenarios.

Abundant humor

Without Lying Down is buoyed by extensive research and abundant humor. Beauchamp had unprecedented access to the MGM contract files locked away at Ted Turner's corporate headquarters in Atlanta. With the blessing of Marion's family, Beauchamp quotes extensively from Marion's endlessly readable if not overly revealing unpublished memoirs. There is a most enjoyable recounting of MGM chief Louis B. Mayer's conviction that a proposed cartoon mouse named Mickey is a dreadful idea since women have a phobia against the little critters.

As for Marion's levity, Beauchamp reports that she used her two screenwriting Oscars for a doorknob and a nutcracker. And Beauchamp can't resist including a little throwaway poem Marion wrote on the devastation of old age. It begins, "Accept the fact, and try to be callous. It's healthier to forget the phallus..."

Beauchamp focuses on Marion as a female excelling in a male-run industry. She is remembered by many as a deeply loyal professional who enjoyed nothing more than writing stories for her closest actress friends. She and other writers such as Anita Loos and Adela Rogers St. John formed a remarkably powerful sorority.

Irving Thalberg, MGM's "boy wonder" head of production, adored Marion and conspired to give her authority at the studio far

beyond her titled position. She and Mayer disliked each other, but he couldn't deny her exceptional track record and the profitability of her movies. The overall impression from this bio is of a time when women writers in Hollywood enjoyed more freedom and respect than they do today.

Marion felt a new chill at the studio in the early 1940s when war was simmering and sex roles grew more rigid. With her productivity dropping sharply, she left in 1946. The mother of two sons, she went on to sculpt, and write novels (*Molly, Bless Her*) and an autobiography (*Off With Their Heads!*) before her death in 1973.

Without Lying Down does not examine Marion's oeuvre for its artistic merit or impact on later films. It could be argued that her adaptations of other people's work are superior to her original scripts and that she was all too comfortable with sentimentality. The point of Beauchamp's book is not Marion's lasting worth as a writer but rather her pivotal and nearly forgotten place in Hollywood history. On that account, Beauchamp scores a knockout. Marion's protean contributions to the American film industry have finally been warmly and thoroughly recognized. ▼

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Time tripper

Poet and novelist Alfred Corn

by Charles Kirtley

Publishing three books within one month is a pretty remarkable feat, but then Alfred Corn is no ordinary man. Corn's reputation as one of our finest contemporary poets is well-established. His poetry has been widely published, receiving critical acclaim from such modern masters as James Merrill and Elizabeth Bishop.

His seventh book of poetry, *Present*, will be published this month by Counterpoint. In these musical, passionate, reflective verses, Corn uses autobiographical themes of the past to explore the present. Two of the poems, "A Marriage in the Nineties" and "Insertion Arias," relate his daily life in New York City with his partner of seven years, Chris Corwin.

Corn has been honored with fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Academy of American Poets, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He teaches in the Graduate Writing Division of Columbia University. Storyline Press will publish his textbook, *The Poem's Heartbeat: A Manual of Prosody*, in April.

Now, Mr. Corn has turned his considerable talents to fiction. His novel, *Part of His Story*, will also be published this spring. The following interview took place over a steaming cup of tea on a cold January day in Corn's Chelsea apartment. His quick-witted responses were an electric mix of intellect and introspection tempered with a soft-spoken charm that bespeaks his South Georgia roots.

Your seventh volume of poetry, *Present*, is being published by Counterpoint. There is such an immediate here-and-now quality to the title. What is it about?

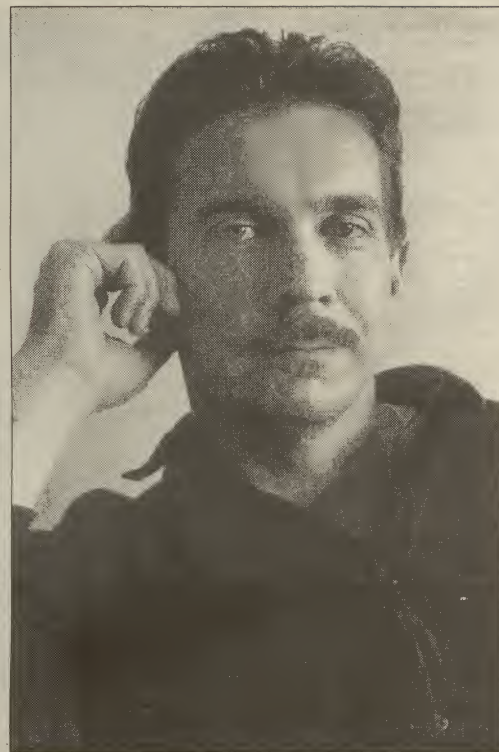
Well, the word present can mean several things, can't it? It can be an adjective meaning something that is here. It can be a noun meaning something that is given to someone else. You could read it as a verb, to present as in introducing someone.

What do you mean? Or is it all of the above?

I wanted to allow for several possible responses. Obviously, time is divided into three parts, the past, present, and the future. I guess I have lost interest in writing a literature for the future because I think we really don't know what the future is going to be. It also seems futile to keep repeating the achievements of the past. So, for me, the only reasonable project was to write something for the present. The present is the only time we live in.

Writing of your childhood, you said that one day your English teacher asked the class which genre they preferred, poetry or prose. You were the only one who raised his hand for poetry. Why poetry?

I guess because I have always been "wrong-way Corrigan." I always go against the grain. I do the opposite of what everybody else does. Sometimes I think it has to do with my sexual orientation. Just as the majority of the chil-



Alfred Corn

dren in the class presumably were straight, I presumably was the only gay one. The singularity and strangeness of the poetry are, by some nonlogical association in my mind, connected to the singularity of being gay.

It appeals to your sense of difference?

Yeah, I think so.

You have written about yourself that "There is no doubt that as I was writing my poetry, it was writing me into my present identity." Tell me about that.

In order to write poetry you have to read poetry. I believe that reading changes us. I don't mean that we experience complete conversions and become unrecognizable the minute we finish a book. But, nevertheless, the process of reading changes you. As I read more and more, I became different from the person who began to read. Also, poetry — the arts in general — are avenues to the unconscious. We don't have to be Freudians to believe that the unconscious directs quite a bit of our lives. In practicing an art you become more a friend of the unconscious. It becomes close and more available to you. It's really a process of self-discovery that goes against the purely social identity that is imposed from the outside. Growing up Christian and heterosexual in a fairly small Southern town, my identity was at odds with some of those social determinants, and writing helped me discover that.

After publishing seven volumes of poetry, you turned to fiction. Why?

When I was young, I read nearly as much fiction as poetry. I always

loved novels and short stories. Certainly my ambitions, which I kept largely secret from other people, included writing fiction as well as poetry. When I was in college, I wrote more fiction than poetry. In fact, a story or two got published in student magazines. In the fall of 1966, I met Edmund White, and he had written a novel which had not yet been published. We became friendly. I expressed my own wish to write fiction and he encouraged me. So, we began reading our fiction to each other. It took him another seven or eight years before he published his first novel. I produced a novel, but it wasn't deemed publishable by anyone I trusted. I wrote another, which I finished around 1976, but didn't get very far with. By then I had published my first book of poetry. I liked writing poetry, but in the back of my mind was the idea that I would eventually return to fiction. I didn't do it until ten years after, when I went to London on a Guggenheim Fellowship. I felt I had the time to take up a larger project, so I began taking notes for a novel. I went to London again the following autumn and finished a first draft.

You once wrote that your friend Edmund White was the first person of intellect you'd met whom you could not best in an argument.

He is a wonderful debater. He knows a lot and is very quick-witted. He is able to state his opinions clearly, forcefully, and with humor. Sometimes you feel he is talking circles around you. We never debated on paper but in a friendly fashion, face to face.

You list Flannery O'Connor as an influence on your writing. She once said that the best fiction was

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INTERVIEW

Learning the language

Aaron Shurin on a book written by AIDS

by Patrick D. Hocht

Poet/teacher/essayist Aaron Shurin is in many ways remarkably like his new book, *Unbound: A Book of AIDS* (Sun & Moon Press, \$19.95). That is to say: slim, elegant, accessible. Sitting in the living room of his Oak Street apartment, the USF and SFSU creative writing instructor, who turns 50 in June, talks animatedly about his classes and his students and the changes he's witnessed in San Francisco since coming here in 1974. Our conversation turns more serious as we start talking about his latest work – a collection of essays, poetry and tales on AIDS written between 1988 and 1996 – and, inevitably, life during the plague years.

Patrick D. Hocht: The subtitle of *Unbound* is *A Book of AIDS* rather than, say, *A Book About AIDS*. Why the slightly awkward preposition?

Aaron Shurin: It was deliberate. I had actually had several versions of the subtitle, as the title went through several versions until I found what I wanted. *A Book of AIDS* indicates to me that it's not a discursive take around AIDS, but the information and the writing come out of the experience of AIDS. In some way, as one of the pieces discusses, it's written by AIDS. In some way, it's written by other people's experience of AIDS. So I felt like it [the subtitle] indicates a communality of experience rather than a personal take, and for me in finding the style of this book, that's one of the hallmarks of the prose.

AIDS is often depicted here as a shark fin, an image that is at once alarming, slightly comic and somehow very apt. How do you explain it as a plague metaphor?

I'm not sure I ever saw the comic nature in it.

I was thinking of Jaws...

And I do play off that a bit. You know each piece arises out of a different period of the epidemic, and sometimes we forget where we were at a given point in the unfolding of the epidemic, how much we knew, how much we didn't know, what particular quality of fear we were experiencing. I know at that point when the shark metaphor first appeared [in "Notes From Under" (1988)], I was really aware of how much in the gay community we were saturated, at sea, as it were, underwater in the epidemic – and how little people outside of the experience really saw of it. In the same way, the shark fin is just barely seen above the water by those on the shore, but it's experienced entirely differently by those in the water or underwater – where the jaws are.

I was struck by your statement: "Writing about AIDS was weighted toward witness." Do you think of yourself as strictly a witness to the epidemic, a scribe, or really more of an interpreter of what you've taken in?

I would say both. The key to that is my HIV-negative status. I want to honor that experience and recognize its authenticity at the same time as I honor people who have HIV or have AIDS or had AIDS – and honor the differences and the authenticity of their experience.

Part of what I saw that I needed to do in this book was in some measure speak for my friends, and that wasn't a position I was used to inhabiting in the kind of poetry I had been writing – and it's part of the search for the form that the book attends. So the witness part meant for me that I had

to pay attention in a particular way and deal with facts in a particular way, because to some large degree, the experience I was talking about was somebody else's. So that witnessing aspect demanded this nonfiction prose.

However, it would be wrong to characterize my sense of my relationship to the epidemic as one only of witness. As we were just discussing, the unfolding nature of knowledge around AIDS...for a good seven or eight years, I felt like I was in the middle of the epidemic. Not separate. We forget how many years there were before tests became prevalent...

...And when we were being urged not to take them.

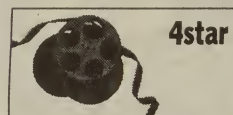
That's right. We lived all together and in a kind of mutual fear as a community for a very long time, and I wouldn't characterize that experience as witness. Nor would I characterize one's experience of loss, whether HIV negative or positive, as witnessing. The experience of the loss of my friends, of the diminishment of history almost, the devastation and rebuilding of the community – those aren't witnessing experiences; they're participatory ones.

"Some Haunting" details a phenomenon that I – and many people I know – have experienced, namely the sighting – you call

page 39 ►



Aaron Shurin



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Everything old is new again

by Chad Jones

4 2nd Street Moon's production of Irving Berlin's *Face the Music* is a complete delight. Dusting off creaky old shows that, even in their prime, may not have been the world's greatest, is what this company does best.

Berlin's score is pleasant but not memorable, though "Torch Song," sung by a streetwalker, is an exception. It's Moss Hart's book that ignites this show. Not that there's much of a plot, because there really isn't: it's 1932 and dirty cops are basically running Manhattan along with the mob. The boys need to lose some cash from their little tin boxes, so they invest in what is sure to be a financial wash: a Broadway spectacle. It's the antithesis of the "let's put on a show" show in that the producers are trying to make it the worst thing ever seen. They nearly succeed, but when the cast revolts and turns the vehicle into a bawdy revue, it sells out for months.

Hart's book is like a comedy grenade — it all goes flying every which way. The adept cast under the direction of **Greg MacKellan** breathes a goofy life into a work that makes even the most dated satirical jokes about the celebrities of the day (Julian Eltinge? Judge Seabury?) seem fresh. The sterling musical direction is by **Brandon Adams** and the lively choreography by **Jenny Lord**. *Face the Music* runs through Sunday at the New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness Avenue. Call 861-8972 for information.

A cabaret three-way

Cabaret junkies who got their fix during the Second Annual Cabaret Convention are going through some heavy-duty withdrawal by this time. Except for the dazzling **Sharon McNight** doing her Sophie Tucker show at the Plush Room, there hasn't been much going on. Well, all that changed Wednesday night when **Lee Lessack**, **Brian Lane Green**, and **John Boswell** opened *Overlapping Lives* at the Plush Room for a two-week run. All three men sing and Boswell plays the piano. As the title suggests, the men do perform together, but only briefly during transitions. The evening is mostly a showcase for their individual talents.



Brian Lane Green



Joseph Lustig and Susan Powers in Irving Berlin's *Face the Music*.

Green, who just finished a tour of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, is perhaps best known for his television work, which includes stints on several soaps — sorry, daytime dramas. He was Alan Brand on *Days of Our Lives*, Sam Fowler on *Another World*, and Brian Bodine on *All My Children*. He's also a Tony-nominated actor for his role in *Starmites*, the show that earned a Tony nomination for Sharon McNight.

Green describes his musical style, and that of Lessack and Boswell, as "theatrical pop." Speaking from his home in the Hollywood Hills, Green says he has given television a rest (though he did just tape an episode of *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*) and is devoting his energies to music. His eponymous debut CD was released last year to critical acclaim, and Green says he hopes to focus for a while on performing.

The only thing he hasn't done yet is film, but, he says, that will come. "I've done a little bit of everything, and you just never know. I grew up the son of a preacher man in Tennessee, overweight with buck teeth and a stutter. Now I make a living sharing my heart. You just never ever know."

Lessack has also produced an eponymous CD, and like Green's, it begins with Johnny Mercer and Harold Arlen's "Out of This World." Hello, didn't they call each other first? Lessack, Green, and Boswell are at the Plush Room through April 19. Call 885-2800 for information.

Speaking of CDs ...

A couple recent releases bear mentioning. **Bernadette Peters**, the preferred diva of the **Sondheim** crowd, has finally recorded something that showcases her dazzling talent. *Sondheim, etc.*: **Bernadette Peters Live at Carnegie Hall** was recorded by Angel Records last December as a benefit for Gay Men's Health Crisis. Anyone who has seen Peters live knows that she is a force of nature, an artist whose kewpie doll face belies



Curtain Up!

an instrument of tremendous emotional range and power. She's never better than when doing Sondheim, and her versions here of "Being Alive," "Not a Day Goes By," and "Happiness," are nothing short of brilliant.

On an instrumental note, Varese Sarabande has released *Chicago and All That Jazz*, the latest in its musical theatre/jazz line. Like the label's *Sondheim In Jazz* series, which included *Company*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Passion*, and *A Funny Thing Happened*, the *Chicago* set features a crack band, namely the seven-member **Brad Ellis Little Big Band**, which brings a swinging Dixieland sound to **Kander and Ebb's** sparkling score. The new Broadway cast recording of *Chicago* on RCA Victor may not be ideal background music for a sunny Sunday brunch, but *Chicago* and *All that Jazz* exists for that reason. ▼

E-mail **Curtain Up!** at crtnup@aol.com. All theater/cabaret comments, suggestions and information are welcome.

FILM

Killing us softly with her films

Yvonne Rainer retrospective at SFMOMA

by Erin Blackwell

Yvonne Rainer is a magic name to film and video-makers. Since 1972 she's made independent films that have challenged conventional notions of narrative structure and gender roles. In 1990 the MacArthur Foundation declared her a genius. It's no surprise the SF Museum of Modern Art has chosen the *oeuvre* of the 63-year-old San Francisco native as the perfect follow-up to last year's Maya Deren retrospective.

Unlike Deren, Rainer is still alive and kicking, and will be on hand tonight at SFMOMA to present her latest film, *MURDER and murder* (1996). This and her other six feature-length films — *Lives of Performers* (1972), *Film About a Woman Who ...* (1974), *Kristina Talking Pictures* (1976), *Journeys from Berlin* (1980), *The Man Who Envied Women* (1985), and *Privilege* (1990) — will be shown over the next eight weeks.

While the museum has understandably given the most playdates to *MURDER and murder*, the earlier films are of equal and or greater interest. All Rainer's work for the screen incorporates techniques she developed during her stint at the Judson Dance Theater in New York City.

Looking like an authority figure and then failing to be authoritative is one more deconstructive nail in the patriarchal coffin, but it's still disappointing.

Starting in 1961, Rainer worked the performance edge of choreography in an atmosphere of gender- and genre-bending that included innovators Trisha Brown, Kenneth King, Meredith Monk, Robert Rauschenberg, and Jill Johnston. In 1968, Rainer introduced slides and short films into her dance pieces; her first stand-alone film, *Lives of Performers* (1972), began as a dance element.

MURDER and murder has a particular claim on our attention as Rainer's first film as a lesbian, about lesbians. The two-hour exercise in autobiography starts as a whimsical love story between two middle-aged lesbians, one of whom (Doris, a.k.a. Yvonne) is just coming out. After swooping into a more melodramatic mood when Doris develops breast cancer, the film opens out into a sociopolitical diatribe about Our Cancerous World.

Early on, Doris establishes the style of post-midlife humor when she confides in a friend, "Never in my wildest dreams, in my most far out fantasies, did I ever come close to imagining I would one day be able to say with the utmost conviction, 'I love eating pussy.'"

The feel of the film is self-conscious, stagey, and occasionally confrontational. The action progresses through a series of black-out sketches, most of which have titles like "PMS: pre-murder signs" that are almost refreshingly coy, coming from an ex-leader of the avant-garde.

Characters speak into the camera or "act" as if they know they're being filmed. There's nothing wrong with this in theory, but

performers can easily get lost in the no-dyke's-land between fiction and vérité.

Rainer herself pops up from time to time as a kind of one-woman chorus. All dooded up in nerd glasses and a cutaway tux revealing her ex-breast, she has a gawky earnestness, a febrile sense of purpose — call it geek appeal — that stands out against the vacuous competence of her cast.

An exception is Kathleen Chalfant, who plays Doris' lover Mildred. Camera-friendly in a way that's hard to define, and evoking both Stan Laurel and Deborah Kerr, she manages to transcend the film's endemic ennui. Other characters include the ghost of Doris' mother (Isa Thomas) and young Mildred (Catherine Kellner), who provide a subplot and herstorical context and serve to retard the action.

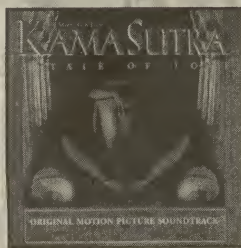
There's promising material here still in the drawing board phase, but as has been known to happen with some performance art, the failure to select and hone is — well, murderous. For example, when Rainer starts to explain the meaning of her film's title, you feel she's going to really define something that's never been said. "Women don't often murder each other. Why not?" She proceeds to hold up two signs. "There's MURDER ... and then there's murder."



A scene from Yvonne Rainer's *Privilege*, 1990.

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Yvonne Rainer will be present at the premiere of *MURDER and murder* Thursday, April 10 at 7 p.m. Regular screenings of all her work continue through May 4, Fridays and Sundays (1 p.m. and 3 p.m.) at SFMOMA. Call 357-4000 for information.

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Arthur Dong

◀ Arts cover

television documentaries, PBS' gay civil rights miniseries *The Question of Equality*, an Emmy-nominated adaptation of Allan Berube's book *Coming Out Under Fire*. But he never dropped his plan for a film about anti-gay violence.

Then, in 1995, a Rockefeller Grant gave him the freedom to pursue the project full-time, keeping financial considerations secondary, and Dong found his angle: he would talk to the men who committed anti-gay murders and ask them why they did it.

When he finally settled on his subject matter, Dong flew to Texas to observe a basher's trial. Over the course of the proceedings, though, the filmmaker became acquainted with the defendant and his family, and found surprising emotions surfacing.

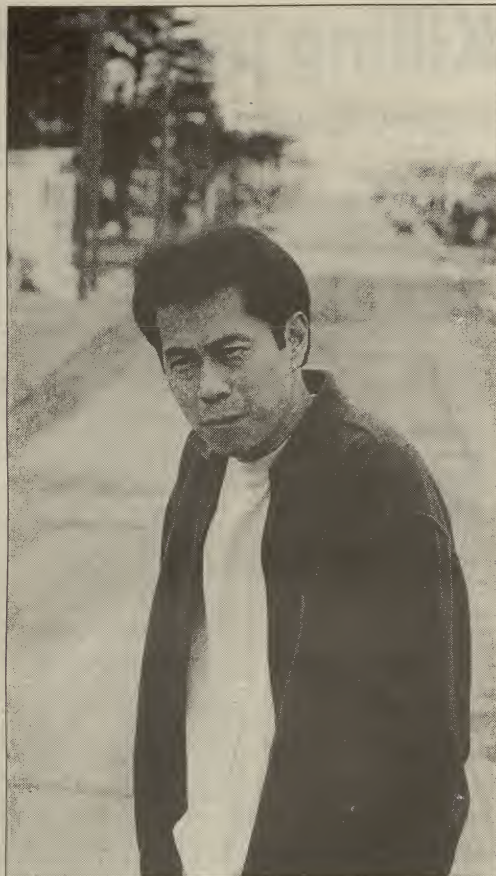
"There was this odd tension I felt," he remembers. "I liked this guy. I went to visit his parents. But he was a murderer. It was then that I thought, what I want to do is talk to these murderers, see who they really are, and find out why this 'nice' kid did what he did."

With singular drive, Dong moved forward, arranging interviews in prisons across the country. It might seem that a gay man, himself a victim of anti-gay violence, would feel frightened or intimidated or enraged facing murderers in prison, asking them to explain their homophobic motivations. But Dong recalls feeling differently: as a filmmaker, his primary concern was getting productive interviews and good footage. As long as he was successful, he was pleased and relieved by the process rather than upset at the individual interview subjects.

"From day one, the interviews were more than I had hoped for, and I was so happy during the process. I don't think I was ever nervous or afraid," he says.

Dong was perhaps the only one not riled up, however.

"My crew got angry at some of the interviews while they were happening, and they would say to me, 'How can you sit there and joke and laugh and talk with them like you're their friend?' They couldn't understand where I was coming from," says Dong. "I wanted to be their friend because I knew that in order for this to work, I needed for them to speak to me as a friend, not as a parole board officer. If they weren't going



Filmmaker Arthur Dong

to be honest with me, the film wouldn't work."

Calm killers

Licensed to Kill, like Dong himself, doesn't boil with rage or seethe with hatred; the murderers — whether vaguely regretful or completely without remorse — are remarkably calm. This odd lack of fury is part of Dong's plan: it shifts the focus from a few dangerous men to the homo-hating culture they describe in unremarkable and mundane terms.

"I was never angry at them, and maybe that's why the film is the way it is," says Dong. "I wanted these people to appear and

young, Dong hopes a shorter, more pointed version could prevent anti-gay violence before it occurs — like a Drivers Education "fright flick" about drunk driving.

"It may not change their minds about how they feel about homosexuals," Dong admits. "But it may stop them from committing crimes."

Potential criminals aren't the only viewers he hopes to reach, however. While some critics might argue that he's preaching to the converted, Dong hopes that gay and lesbian audiences in particular will view *Licensed to Kill* as a wake-up call. Although anti-gay violence — from verbal abuse to

"My crew got angry at some of the interviews while they were happening, and they would say to me, 'How can you sit there and joke and laugh and talk with them like you're their friend?'"

speak like your next-door neighbor. I didn't want them to feel like the fringe element. That makes them, and the world that created them, that much more dangerous.

"I wanted to indict the social, cultural and religious standards that created this kind of men, to look at a whole social world order and criticize that. If we're going to try to stop this contempt for homosexuals, it's not the individuals we need to change. It's how this whole world sees us as human beings that needs to be changed."

As part of this grand mission, Dong plans to re-cut the film into a half-hour version for high school students. Since many of the murderers committed their crimes when they were very

murder — was a hot topic a few years back, Dong notes a creeping sense of complacency in the community today, an unjustified shallow optimism.

"The forces against us are growing stronger and more organized," Dong warns. "We'd rather think that we just have to pass a few laws and everything will be fine. What we'd rather not deal with is changing our social and cultural environment to change people's ways of thinking. I hope this film tells us that despite the progress we've made, they still want to kill us. They still hate us, and it's not as safe as we think." ▼

Licensed to Kill plays April 10-16 at the Castro Theatre.

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FILM

A scene from Arthur Dong's *Licensed To Kill*.

Fear of a queer planet

'Licensed To Kill' taps essential homophobia

by Gary Morris

Law enforcement usually makes us think of the police, but there are other kinds of laws and other kinds of enforcers. Arthur Dong's documentary *Licensed to Kill* explores the "laws" — sometimes written, sometimes simply understood — against homosexuality and the men who take it upon themselves to rid the world of what they've been trained to think of as a weak, disposable group — gay men. In this devastating, graphic look at a loose subculture of murderers, Dong exposes not simply a group of rampaging sociopaths but, more importantly, a society that carefully creates them.

Dong somehow obtained permission to interview seven of these men, whose profiles prove surprisingly varied. Sgt. Kenneth French is less typical than the others in not targeting gays specifically, in a restaurant murder spree that ended with four dead and seven wounded. Still, his act was triggered by what was arguably a coded version of "homosexual panic" — the fear brought on by Clinton's 1993 plan to lift the ban on gays in the military. French exhibits a classic paranoid hetero response to the idea of being forced to be in contact with out-of-the-closet gays. His apparent working-class background is proof of how easy it is to trap one group of have-nots into demonizing another.

The "homosexual panic defense" beloved by defense attorneys surfaces more overtly in the case of William Cross, who knifed a gay man to death after an alleged pass was made. Some of Cross' comments — "It's like this rage just came from nowhere" — sound as if his attorney invented them, but Cross is believable when he describes being raped at age seven by a friend of the family, an act that seems to have destroyed any chance he had to develop into a reasonable adult. Cross' inability to distinguish between the act of a rapist and ordinary gay men shows just how successful religious groups and others have been in equating the two.

The devaluation of gay lives is an explicit theme throughout *Licensed to Kill*. Jeffrey Swinford, who helped kill a man who allegedly made a pass at him, sees gay men as a nuisance "that oughta be taken care of." Typically, he counted on the homophobia of local law enforcement to overlook his crime, so much so that he

seemed surprised about being caught. Indeed, he thought so little about the crime that by the time he was nailed, "I'd really almost forgot about it." Swinford recalls being asked by his high school science teacher to "Pick a subject, something you don't approve of, and [explain] why." He chose homosexuality, and marshaled Bible quotes as support. One could argue that one of the small steps that probably contributed to Swinford's murderous act was this teacher's — and by extension, society's — failure to force him to think about his hatred of homosexuals.

One of the few men here who professes any understanding of what he did is Corey Burley, from the black projects of Dallas. Burley's crime, killing a Vietnamese student who came to the U.S. to escape the war, was part of a continuum of violence that began early in his life. He too was socialized to believe that violence is part of the birthright of the hetero male: "When I was growing up, I wanted to be bad," he says. But he adds ruefully, "Well, look where it's got me. I'm bad, but I'm locked up."

The case of Raymond Childs complicates the straightforward notion of gay-bashing with issues of class and race. Childs, who is black and working-class, was picked up by a white, middle-aged, well-off, married lawyer who, he says, "rushed" to put the make on him. "The anger and the thought of me even getting touched by a man, it made me furious." While the lawyer could be seen as an exploiter, Childs' defense is undercut by the fact that he was picked up at a well-known gay cruising spot, that he willingly went to the man's hotel room, that he killed him brutally (stabbing him 27 times), and that afterward he went on a shopping spree with the man's money. It's difficult to reconcile the killer's "panic" defense with these facts.

In some ways the most chilling of the film's interviews is with serial killer Ray Johnson. At first I thought Johnson was a commentator brought on to put some intellectual perspective on these cases. That's how articulate he is. Raised in a strict religious household, Johnson is the classic self-hating homosexual whose inability to reconcile the religious beliefs beaten into his head from childhood with his own natural impulses led him first to cruise parks, then to murder. "I was disgusted with what I was doing," he says of his sexual liaisons. "And ...

I thought to myself, 'If I shut these places [cruising parks] down, my temptation to do that would be less.'" He did this by killing two men and wounding another before he was caught.

Johnson talks at length about the insidious influence of religion on his life, and *Licensed to Kill* resonates with this disturbing motif, lining up the faces of the larger criminals — Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell — in their proper place, alongside those of the killers. ▼

Licensed to Kill plays April 10-16 at the Castro Theatre.

COMEDY

Comic gold



Tired of the usual comedy shows? Try "Tangent," an alternative stand-up comedy show on Thursday, April 10, at Cafe du Nord. "Tangent's" anecdotal format, inspired by comedy shows like the Uncabaret in LA and Rebar in New York, encourages comics to use personal experience for comic inspiration. "Mainstream stand-up comedy typically depends on stereotypes, scatological jokes, and repetition for laughs," says Heather Gold, the show's co-producer. "Tangent" doesn't rely on such Lowest Common Denominator humor. The first show will be hosted by local comics Sabrina Matthews (above), Joan Jett-Blakk, Kurt Weitzmann, and Scott Capurro. Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market St. (7 p.m.) \$8. Call 979-6545 for information. ▼

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Warning: Male Nudity

Alfred Corn

◀ page 32

written when the author's dramatic sense is fused with the moral sense. Is that true of your fiction?

I would hope so. I have read all her work several times, including her critical writings, where she says that. Most novelists feel that the "scene," the presentation of an encounter with people in a setting, is the central part of any novel. It resembles drama in that you get direct encounters, people, their speech, their responses to each other. I like those scenes where there is a kind of debate of

two value systems, where we are made to follow the emotions that go with the presentation of each system and feel that we, ourselves, have a stake in the outcome. Those issues are in some sense moral. When I say moral, I don't mean to limit it to tidy middle-class behavior, because I think very often true morality leads us away from prudence, from neatness, from correct decorous solutions. Real morality urges us to go beyond that.

In an essay you wrote for *Wrestling with the Angel*, an anthology about faith and religion in the lives of gay men, you wrote that you didn't feel fully comfortable as a gay man until you be-

came a Christian. Tell me about that.

I think that any person who belongs to a so-called minority has to counteract in some way or other the feeling that we don't belong to society, that we don't fit a prescribed mold. Women very often say they don't feel they are full-class citizens. Gay people confront a great deal of hostile criticism about our very nature, being, and actions. Gay liberation has helped us do that. It has given us an alternative form of discourse to counteract those arguments and hostile criticisms. For me, that was an imperfect defense that worked 85 percent of the time, but not 100 percent of the time. Because the negative discourses we hear go back to the earliest period of our consciousness, it took something truly powerful to reach the level of the irrational in consciousness. Self-approval is a part of feeling okay in the world, but for me it needed something larger, the feeling that the whole universe itself and the consciousness in it fully approved of me. Once I had that channeled to me through religious perspectives, I could say that I was 100 percent happy with who I am.

You have also credited Proust with being a major influence. You singled out a line from his *Remembrance of Things Past* which reads that particular places are "as fugitive as the years."

Part of His Story



Alfred Corn

It's paradoxical, because you have a wonderful marvel like St. Paul's, which is 300 hundred years old. Is it a building of the past or of the present? Well, it's both. In Avery's research into the fortunes of the Cibber family, strange parallels develop between what happened to them and what is happening to Avery right now as the novel unfolds. I don't think there is a mechanical one-to-one correspondence, but there are affinities and echoes that interchange between the two narratives.

Avery's lover, Joshua, falsely tests negative for HIV, but then dies of AIDS. Avery is tormented by the pros and cons of testing because of this bitter experience.

Yes, that's in the last sentence of his first volume.

In your novel, *Part of His Story*, place is extremely important. London is almost as important in the story as the protagonist, Avery Walsh. Give me a grip on this statement that place is "as fugitive as the years."

The simplest explanation I can think of is that when I was a child, we had a house on the edge of town. After I left home, my parents moved away from that house, in the last part of their lives. During one of my visits to my hometown, I went back to see the old place. All these other houses had been built around it. The grounds had been changed enormously and the house looked minute. It didn't look like the place where I had grown up. I compared my memories to the place in front of me, and there was not much similarity. I think that's what Proust means, that times change and perspectives change. His whole novel is based on the idea that you do return to those early scenes, but they are interior, they are within us.

Part of His Story is narrated by a middle-aged American playwright, Avery Walsh, who is grieving over the death of his lover from AIDS. He goes to London, where he finds solace in an affair with a younger man. Where did this idea come from?

I was in London on a Guggenheim Fellowship. I had no poems that I particularly wanted to write at the moment, so I thought it would be a good time to get back to fiction. I thought here I am, so why not write a novel set in London. I was fascinated by the city. I was going around looking at different parts. The previous year, a dear friend, David Kalstone, a poetry critic who had helped me when I was beginning to publish, had died of AIDS. As I began to speculate about the novel, I thought that might be a valid, even vital topic to write about. It might also have been a part of the grieving process.

In *Part of His Story*, Avery also uses writing as a way of dealing with grief. He undertakes writing a biography of three generations of the Cibber family. The lives of this colorful family of late 17th- and 18th-century London contrast with Avery's experience in 20th-century London. Avery's research into the past seems to help him interpret London in terms that mean something to him in the present.

In those years [1986] the tests were less reliable than now, so it was possible to get the wrong information. Before there was any treatment, we were discouraged from testing because if you got a positive there was nothing to do. You would feel that you had only a year or two to live. It would be so depressing it was better not to know. For that reason people didn't test in those years. I didn't. Now the testing is much more accurate and we do have treatments.

After Joshua's death, Avery goes to London, where he meets Derek, a young man in his 20s. Avery is early middle-aged, intellectual, established in his career. Derek is unemployed, working-class, and hasn't much education. His cultural hero is Boy George. Tell me about this very unequal relationship. What makes it work?

I think it's true to experience that opposites attract. Some people have said that since we don't have gender differences in gay life that the sense of difference has to be established on other grounds. The very fact that Derek is Irish, that he is working-class, that he hasn't had much education, and that his sense of culture is pop culture is one of the sources of attraction for Avery, not to mention that he is a sexy 25-year-old.

On the cover of your book is a photograph of the head of Hypnos, the god of dreams. It is a handsome head of a young man with a wing protruding from the left side of his forehead. Avery is fascinated by this head because he thinks he sees in it a resemblance to Derek. Later in the novel, Derek is wounded in a gay-bashing incident in which he is hit in the forehead by a rock, causing him to bleed in the left temple, the same spot as Hypnos' wing. Tell me more about Hypnos.

I like the work itself. It's a Roman bronze which was found in Spain. I actually wonder if Avery is right to say that Derek really looks that much like the bronze. But I do think it's true that when you are in love, the first flush of love, you see your lover everywhere. I was aware of the connection that could be made between Derek's wound and the wing of Hypnos, but I wasn't certain exactly how to state that connection. I think that artists leave a lot of interpretation to the audience and the critics. We know that it is significant, but we don't state that significance in so many words. We just think abstractly about the associations of a wound and blood and dreams.

next page ▶

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INTERVIEW

Aaron Shurin

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them "AIDS apparitions" of long-dead friends in the street. Are they really haunting us? What do they want?

I sort of used that as a locution or a figure in that piece to be able to talk about my friend John Davis, who graces the cover and who appears at many points throughout this book — and who I kept seeing or imagining I was seeing. In "Some Haunting" I suggest — how to say this — it is some nature of my loss through his loss that somehow stays unfinished and continually needs to be addressed. I suppose what I was trying to do was investigate the idea of what seeing these people was — what we might call being haunted by them. And it was some combination of their unfinished business and our unfinished business with them. Either sundered friendships or sundered loves commensurate with sundered lives.

At the end of that piece, I pose the question, "How do I serve this dead young man?" I hope in some modest way that in writing about him, I'm serving and helping address his unfinished business.

There is a sense in *Unbound* that dealing with HIV/AIDS has made you who you are now as a writer. In fact, at one point you say, "How to write AIDS named me." Can you describe that naming process?

I couldn't successfully speak to all the ways in which the experience of the epidemic has transformed me — or the community and culture that's so central to me. I could talk specifically — and I think it's central to *Unbound* — about the ways in which my writing had to be changed and the ways in which AIDS demanded a transformation, at least for this book.

Previously, though I had written some prose, mostly what I'd written was poetry. The nature of the poetry served to sustain contradiction and to keep meaning open in a suggestive and florid manner. That's the kind of poetry that interested me and has for many years. But in terms of the epidemic, what I began to feel was an assault of fact. The experience of AIDS was the overwhelming experience of information.

I don't just mean statistical or

UNBOUND
A Book of AIDS

Aaron Shurin

medical information. I mean the information of the confrontation of mortality and the confrontation of loss and grief and fear...and revelation! Certainly the transformative experiences of many of my friends as they were struggling with the disease had an aspect of revelation. There was so much meaning and so much detail and so much specificity in that experience that though a writerly part of me demands an open relationship to meaning, an experiential part of me was demanding something more focused, more exact.

The writing had to move into a kind of prose whose sentences could bear down and scrutinize...

Sounds almost as if you're locking on.

Yes, exactly. It was like the laser lock of syntax in trying to engage this material. That was something I felt AIDS, the nature of the epidemic, was demanding. Aside from that, it took me a very long time to even come to that point. But coming to that point — and I'm talking about the disposition toward the writing and not the writing itself — I came to feel was also a demand AIDS made on me. It couldn't be avoided. There was a responsibility one had as a writer. It wasn't enough to say any longer, "I don't know how to do this." I had to know how to do it. I had to learn. ▼

Aaron Shurin (*The Graces, Giving Up the Ghost, Into Distances, Elsewhere*) reads with Ruth Schwartz at the SFSU Poetry Center Reading Room on April 17 at 4:30 p.m. He will also be reading at A Clean Well Lighted Place on April 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Alfred Corn

◀ previous page

When a reader finishes *Part of His Story*, what do you want to have told him?

I don't want to be that controlling. I'd like each reader to discover what they want to be told by the novel. It seems to me that you could compare a novel to a jungle gym. There is a structure, but the child chooses how to play on it. Some will weave in and out of the bottom; others will want to climb all the way to the top. The structure is there, but each person responds in his own way.

You have written that there are three distinct periods in your life. You were born Alfred Dewitt Corn III. Throughout your childhood you were called Dee for your middle

initial. When you went away to college, you became Al. Now you are Alfred. Who is Alfred Corn? Who is this little boy who used to be Dee, who became Al, who eventually became Alfred Corn?

Well, the past is present. All those layers are still there, and through memory and dreams are rediscoverable. When I dream, the location of the dream is the childhood home where I grew up. They are all present even though they were formed in the past. I know quite a bit about myself from being a writer, from being introspective. But I like the idea that I can still surprise myself. I try not to be too definite about who I am because I like to leave the sense of possibility and discovery open. Things are still changing because my circumstances are changing. I don't think my identity is a closed book yet. It's still in progress. ▼

Choice cuts

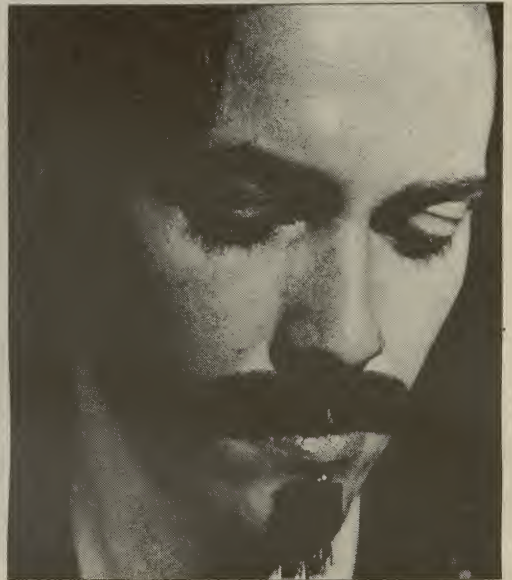
by Glen Helfand

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, the Ansel Adams Center for Photography has hauled out a major exhibition of crisp landscapes by old standby Ansel Adams. To appease contemporary tastes, however, the Center is also showcasing the work of artists it has recently honored through its awards programs. The resulting exhibition, *Selections*, is a mixed bag with local angles.

Though the awards are not limited to Bay Area photographers, three of the four artists whose work is on display live in San Francisco, and their work reflects the terrain. Susan Schwartzberg presents a display of found objects and pictures based on her impressive photo book, *Centro: A Market Street Journal*, an almost archaeological study of our main thoroughfare (produced with the SF Art Commission).

The local history theme in Schwartzberg's work is expanded and updated with Deborah Hammond's black-and-white *Transgender(ed) Portraits*. The subjects of these tightly cropped images — "drag queens, kings and transsexuals" — were recruited from an ad in *SF Weekly*. The strategy and the images are not groundbreaking, but you might recognize a couple of the sitters.

Collaborative team Aziz + Cucher tap into the strange fruits of Silicon Valley with their *Discontinued Now!* series. These are



Transgender Portrait #22-09-94-1, by Deborah Hammond, 1994

still lifes of unidentifiable gray plastic objects that could have come from high-tech office cubicles. The subjects resemble both computer equipment and last year's latest cybersex gadget.

The regional spell is broken with pictures of Ukrainian villagers by New York-based photographer Linda Suchy. These striking, somewhat photojournalistic

works earned her this year's Calumet Emerging Photographer Award. The distant subject matter, however, reveals that they're not from around here. ▼

Selections is up through June 29 at the Ansel Adams Center for Photography at 250 4th St. Call 495-7000 for information.

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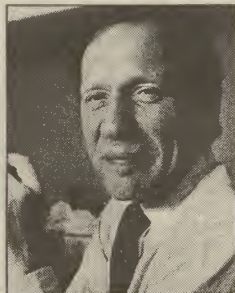
Who killed disco?

by Robert Julian

The Last Party: Studio 54, Disco, and the Culture of the Night, by Anthony Haden-Guest; William Morrow & Company, \$25

Anthony Haden-Guest's *The Last Party: Studio 54, Disco, and the Culture of the Night* is a detailed account of the rise and fall of Steve Rubell and Ian Schrager, the odd-couple creators of Studio 54, and the empire they built. Documented by seemingly endless interviews with those who worked behind the scenes, Haden-Guest's book is full of minutiae about financial deals, alliances, and betrayals, but it lacks the kind of celebrity gossip that would put a book like this over the top. The result is a curious tome that is unlikely to appeal to anyone who was not a Studio 54 insider.

The myopia which afflicts



Anthony Haden-Guest

Haden-Guest's work surfaces early in the prologue, where he declares that the gay and women's liberation movements of the late '60s "were pursued by, and for, the benefit of straight men." He then follows this allegation with his analysis of the mid-'70s evolution of the liberation movement: "Liberation went mainstream as 'Fun.' This was first noticeable in the straight world." Here, Haden-Guest proves his Manhattan was, indeed, a very small world.

Sweeping generalizations aside, the author launches into a detailed history of the culture of the night, focusing almost exclusively on Studio 54. The heterosexual Schrager and the gay, drug-addicted Rubell come together to steal someone else's idea and put the club on the map. Skimming cash profits, the Rubell/Schrager team eventually ends up in prison for tax evasion, and Studio 54 stumbles along in their absence. Scant attention is paid to other venues, especially the gay ones, although Haden-Guest does acknowledge that in the beginning disco was for "the very smart set and the gay set. Which was sometimes the same set." Yet, in the entire book, Manhattan's premiere gay venue, The Saint, is given only two sentences. Haden-Guest does, however, devote several pages to his own voyeuristic slumming through gay sex emporiums like The Mineshaft.

Like a fly on the wall, Haden-Guest wears out his welcome rather quickly. It's hard to imagine an audience interested in this particular accumulation of factoids. Most of the major players — including Rubell himself — died years ago. Those who survived have moved on to other things. There is no input from the celebrities whose bleary-eyed, drugged-out photographs appear in *The Last Party*, and it's easy to understand why. But Haden-Guest does describe Studio 54 theme nights in detail, where the skimmed cash was hidden, and how ex-cons Schrager and Rubell managed to segue into the hotel business in Manhattan with the opening of Morgans and the Paramount.

The reader senses Haden-Guest's disdain as he chronicles the devolution of Manhattan's party scene. The private rooms for celebrities disappear as the jet-set glitterati moves on, only to be replaced by poor, scrawny little nobodies from Des Moines who assume the role of "club kids" in the late '80s. It seems the author found drug-addicted superficiality much more palatable when he still had a place at the table. Both author and publisher will soon realize that books on watering holes written by dinosaurs have limited commercial appeal. ▼

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Half-baked

by Bob Roehr

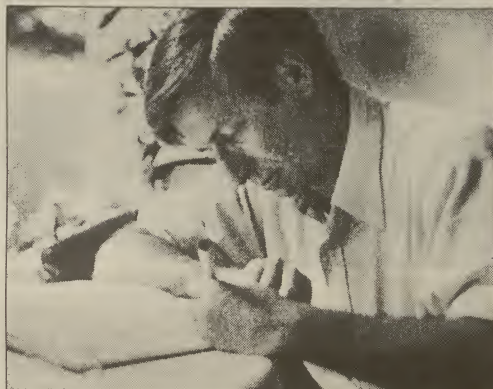
Gossip by Christopher Bram; Dutton, \$22.95

Christopher Bram is one of those few authors who has managed to please both critics and the gay book-buying public with his five previous novels. Considering his success, I eagerly awaited Bram's latest offering, *Gossip*. But, after reading the book in a single day, I found *Gossip* unsatisfying.

The tale is told through the voice of Ralph Eckhart, a 34-year-old East Village slacker who works in a bookstore. He has dropped out of ACT UP and doesn't seem to have much else going on in his life, save an obsession with 19th-century English novels. A perfunctory online exchange leads to a blind date when he visits a female friend in Washington. The good sex leads to an affair with Bill O'Connor, whom Ralph comes to learn is a rising young conservative journalist. [The character is loosely modeled on David Brock, a writer for the *American Spectator*, who has penned books on Anita Hill and Hillary Clinton.]

Gossip begins as a pleasing exploration of the conflicts Ralph feels in the evolving relationship. The underlying issues are whether he is in love, wants to be in love, is capable of being in love. Much of the text is devoted to a liberal-conservative polarity that revolves around the nagging question "How can I be dating someone so ideologically impure?" Though Ralph is repulsed by most aspects of Bill's personality, he cannot deny that the couple is having really "great sex." This tension between gonads and brain, nature and construct, is an interesting and well-developed vehicle.

But at midpoint Bram seems to have either lost interest in these questions or, more likely, couldn't figure out how to resolve them. So



Author Christopher Bram

he doesn't. Instead, he has Bill bludgeoned to death by an apparent pick-up. The slow pace and interior detail of a story tracing an evolving personal relationship suddenly turns into a potboiler crammed with external action. The book becomes a Kafkaesque thriller.

Parts of the ride Bram takes you on in *Gossip* are indeed exciting. But too many others seem undeveloped and sketchy when compared with the richly detailed first half. Others defy plausibility. For example, Ralph is charged with Bill's murder, and his arrest makes the front page of the *Washington Post*. But weeks later, when mother calls from North Carolina she is blissfully unaware of these facts.

The denouement tidily wraps up the pieces. But in doing so Bram exposes all of the major characters as having lied to and deceived their best friends. The web of lies is too pat, the extent of betrayal too uniform. None of the principle characters, and perhaps only one of the secondary ones, ends up being likable.

That is most apparent with Ralph. As hero/narrator he is edu-

cated and articulate, too sophisticated to be an innocent naïf. Yet he also seems naggingly stupid, unable to think clearly or show much decisiveness when it comes to his own life. These incidents accumulate, then pile on at the end until their weight completely collapses his credibility as a character. The final scene finds him standing alone, stranded on a busy interstate, and quite frankly, I don't give a damn.

Bram has given us parts of two books in one. He should have decided which he was going to write and proceeded on a due course. While many of the pages are delicious going down, the whole of *Gossip* leaves one feeling a bit queasy. ▼

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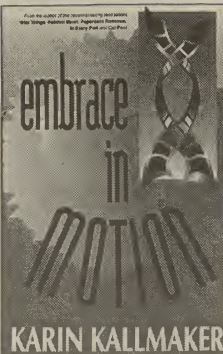
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KARIN KALLMAKER

Recommended reading

by Deborah Peifer

Embrace in Motion by Karin Kallmaker; Naiad, \$11.95

Fans of Karin Kallmaker's earlier Naiad novels (*Paperback Romance*, *Car Pool*, et al.) – rejoice! Her latest, *Embrace in Motion*, is a pointed and sometimes painful look at the difference between love and lust, and the problems that ensue when women confuse the two.

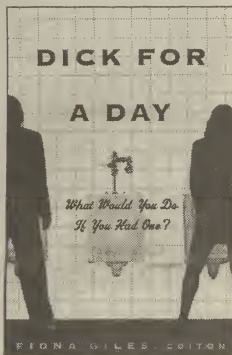
Sarah MacNeil, first seen at a convention with her fellow patent attorneys, is as straight a character as a lifelong lesbian can possibly be, given to suits and heels and pantyhose. When she spots the gorgeous Melissa Hartley, who is at the hotel for a lesbian writers' conference, Sarah knows lust.

Melissa is no lawyer; she is, however, a sexual being of radiant intensity. Within moments of

meeting, they're mating. Discovering that they both live in Washington State, and are close enough for regular sleep-overs (ah, euphemism!), Sarah and Melissa embark on weekends of fantastic sex, followed by more sex, and then, just for a change of pace, they have sex. Yee-hah!

Of course, before the sweat dries, they're living together. Melissa is an author/photographer/filmmaker wannabe, which means she has pretensions of greatness but is entirely comfortable having Sarah pay for all their living expenses. When Melissa has a great opportunity in San Francisco, Sarah decides to move south with Melissa, expecting that Melissa's fabulous chance will result in equally marvelous results.

Kallmaker does a fine job of creating the pair's sexual relationship (whew!), but she is equally skilled at showing us the compromises that result when one woman's lust is another's love. Her subplots, concerning life at a computer software company and the personal lives of various secondary characters, ring solidly true. The dialogue for all is character-specific, with lots more humor than I remember from her earlier novels. *Embrace in Motion* is a pleasure to recommend. ▼



Pondering the penis

by Deborah Peifer

Dick for a Day: What Would You Do If You Had One, edited by Fiona Giles; Villard, \$12.95

Long before the concept was articulated by Freud, possessors of a penis assumed that the rest of us must be overwhelmed with envy and crushed with sorrow, because we were, as it were, memberless. In her brilliant and hilarious analysis, "The Penis as Problematic: Feminist Observations on the Anatomical Distinctions Between the Sexes" (*Trivia*, Fall 1987), Diane R. Holman dissects, if you will, the notion that the phallus is, of itself, a source of greatness. She argues that as a consequence of "the fact that it dangles – [creates in the male body a] ... sense of non-inactness, of 'hanging out' – [that it] reverberates in psychological life as the feeling of *de trop*, of excessiveness.... The overvaluing of the problematic is institutionalized in heterosexuality."

A further overvaluing of the problematic occurs in *Dick for a Day*, based as it is on the assumption that a penis is so extraordinarily valuable, of itself, that every woman must spend all or most of her creative energies imagining a glorious moment when she might be gifted, even blessed, with one.

In her introduction, editor Fiona Giles sets out her thesis with enough jargon laddled on to give the romps to follow a patina of academic propriety. "The book reveals what women really think of the phallus as both anatomical object and cultural archetype."

Of course, "women" refers for the most part to straight women. Giles explains: "The book casts a wide net over female perspectives on the penis, ranging outside the better-explored lesbian use of masculine indicators. While also including lesbians and bisexual writers, *Dick for a Day* is particularly interested in what a heterosexual woman would make of a penis."

If the essays, poems and cartoons in this collection are any evidence, the answer is...not much. Most of the pieces are predictable and plain, puerile even.

There are a few notable exceptions. Carol Wolper explores the change in attitude toward her by others when she grows "a tower of testosterone" in "Size and Sensibility." Belinda Luscombe admits that "first I wanted to write my name" in "There's No Such Thing as a Plaid Jockstrap." Discovering so many varieties of condoms, "I began to wonder if anyone wore condoms even if they weren't planning on having sex, just for the look of it. The sales clerk's expression, when I asked, seemed to indicate no." Margaret Wertheim's "The Pricks in Physics: A Historical Fantasy" is a remarkably interesting review of great women scientists whose work was disregarded because they couldn't write their names in the snow.

Most impressive in its thoughtfulness and depth is Pat Califia's "Dildo Envy and Other Phallic Adventures." Califia looks at the painful division between gay men and lesbians, and argues that "the way we deal with the world is based on the metaphors we use to try to understand how consciousness inhabits the body." She raises the possibility of our connecting with each other in ways that transcend the physical as they celebrate the body. Of course, I found the sado-masochistic fantasy that concludes the essay troubling, but that in no way diminishes the value of the earlier portion.

Dick for a Day is a mostly disappointing collection, with pieces that are distressingly banal. The examples of excellence, however, are so good that they make the book worth owning. ▼

Food for thought

by Deborah Peifer

Hunger's Table: Women, Food & Politics by Margaret Randall, edited by Leslea Newman; Paper-Mache, \$10

Some years ago, on the day before Thanksgiving, I received a phone call from a young woman friend who had arrived home for the break only to learn that her parents had separated, that her mother would not be home for the holiday, and that an army of relations would arrive on Thursday expecting a traditional turkey dinner. Her father assumed that she would be able to cope, because, after all, she had a uterus. Because my friend's only cooking experience involved reheating take-out pizza in a microwave, she was in a bit of a

next page ►

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MUSIC

Hokum and agitprop

by Philip Campbell

While America continues to debate the possibility of same-sex marriage, gay couples go right on setting up house in search of conventional romance. Getting there means setting the mood, however, and finding the right background music can be a big help. It's shocking to think how few openly gay love songs exist today. Fortunately, two new compact discs have arrived in stores to help redress the imbalance.

Stage 2, *The Human Heart*; various artists, Dink Records

As the liner notes to this record indicate, the idea of an album devoted entirely to love songs sung male to male is still depressingly revolutionary, even in the post-mod '90s. Too bad the results here aren't more boldly subversive.

The original Stage 1 must have been a big success in order to engender a sequel. But the new disc, alas, is repeating an old format — show tunes originally assigned to women are sung by men, with the gender references unchanged. Not a bad idea, but we got the gimmick



the first time around. Still, the record is somewhat entertaining, and because most of the songs work well in a male context, there are even some revelations. Indeed, it's a refreshing change of pace to chart the course of a corny conventional courtship with two guys.

The Human Heart founders, though, when the song was clearly meant to have been sung by a woman scorned, like in "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man." Perhaps there really are a lot of men out there who see themselves as the weepy heroines of Broadway musicals, but it's a hard sell.

The disc cover and booklet show a frisky young pair of come-lately models eagerly exploring marriage-type love: cozy fireside chats, cutesy rough-housing in

bed, etc. For some, this will doubtless prove a strong selling point. I don't want to rain on anyone's parade, but next time the folks at Dink Records decide to go gay, I hope they'll forfeit the pretty pictures and ersatz Broadway melodrama and remember to include some original material.

Ute Lemper with the Matrix Ensemble; Robert Ziegler conductor; London Records



When I rave about this latest release in London/Decca's ongoing Entartete Musik series (music suppressed by the Third Reich), my critical objectivity may be judged by a previous immunity to the overwrought talents of Ute Lemper.

Listening to Lemper turn every song, no matter how simple, into some kind of weird Kabuki drama has not seduced me into her international fan club. Now that I've been utterly charmed by her latest effort, though, I am faced with a complete change of heart.

Of course, her musical director Robert Ziegler and the excellent Matrix Ensemble share in the success, but the real stars here are the composers, Rudolf Nelson, Mischa Spoliansky, Friedrich Hollaender, Berthold Goldschmidt, Kurt Tucholsky, and Marcellus Schiffer.

The Entartete Musik series re-examines the vast output of music banned by Hitler's Third Reich in the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, and other political disruptions in the 20th century. Lemper's disc presents 18 cabaret numbers in high-

ly idiomatic performances. The music is so successful at recreating the sound of the Weimar Republic that one could easily sense the presence of Christopher Isherwood and Sally Bowles.

The real discovery here is in the overtly homosexual material. There's a sly bisexual ditty, "When the Special Girlfriend"; a feminist attack, "Chuck Out the Men"; an ode to gender-benders, "Maskulinum-Femininum"; and perhaps most important of all, a true queen's anthem in "The Lavender Song." Sample some of these angry, proud, and defiant lyrics and you'll see why the thugs were afraid of the writers.

Lemper characterizes each number perfectly, changing from girlish laughter to heart-wrenching pain. This is a must for lovers of the art song and anyone who is interested in the significance of cabaret as agitprop entertainment. The folks at Dink Records might want to hear some of this gritty gay material before they move on to Stage 3. ▼

Books

◀ previous page

crowave, she called me for help. Surely I could talk her through the meal preparations. After all, I had a uterus. The fact that she was in New Jersey and I was in Chicago was not a problem, was it? How hard could it be to teach a cooking novice over the phone to make gravy?

Women and food. The topic never goes away, can never be explored completely, can never be resolved. And maybe that's because, as Patricia Washburn writes in *Eating Our Hearts Out*, "on the most basic level, women are food." Whatever the reasons, women's relationship to food, to eating and preparing it, is complex, multi-layered, always fascinating. In her latest book, Margaret Randall — lesbian, activist, poet, photographer, chef — explores her (and our) relationship to food in a series of poems and recipes that celebrate the bounty of life while analyzing the politics that inform both plenty and want.

Don't make the mistake of skipping the introduction. Randall has much to say about the place of food and eating, and her wonderfully written intro locates the poetry to come in a progressive politics. "In this collection," she explains, "I bring together my own woman's voice and my love of cooking — mirrored halves of a powerfully female way of knowing."

The recipes and the poems cover a range of foods and feelings. In "Grape Pie," for example, Randall expresses joyous sensual-



ity while explaining how to begin making a pie: "This pie calls for 4 cups blue grapes/and asks that skillful fingers/slip the pulp from their skins./It requires you cook the lush mass/until its seeds loosen/and begs you keep your fantasies in check." Randall's "Ode to Velveta" reminds us of the many layers of meaning in both the fact and the phrase "comfort food." Anyone who has cooked for a new lover will enjoy "Spaghetti Lure," with its wry commentary on the early days of romance: "Our first date I baked a delicate soufflé/fresh salmon flaked and fluffed/... We'd been together several years/when you admitted/you hate soufflés of any kind."

No one book, indeed no baker's dozen of books, will ever resolve all the issues around women and food, but Margaret Randall's beautiful, sensual, painful, and practical poetry book of recipes, cookbook of poems makes an important contribution. *Hunger's Table* is a feast for all the senses. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



Memories in Color (detail), serigraph by Peter Malkin

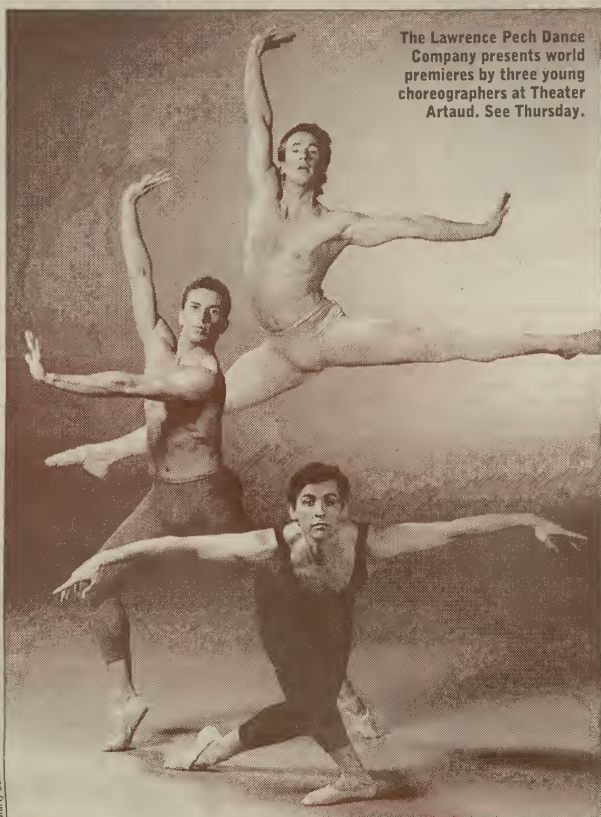
Nazi-catcher

In rare cases, an artist's life is most of what makes his art interesting. Peter Malkin's paintings and prints now at Vorpai Gallery are scenes of Jewish life and relatives killed in the Holocaust, but Malkin occupies a unique position in global history quite independent of his art. He was the man who captured Adolf Eichmann, the chief architect of Hitler's "final solution," on a street in Buenos Aires in 1960. Malkin was a Mossad agent delegated with apprehending Eichmann for his trial of crimes against humanity, and his execution in 1962 in Jerusalem.

In France on his way to Buenos Aires for the catch, Malkin bought a tourist guide, *The South American Handbook*. On its pages he did the drawings which became the sixty serigraphs of his *Argentine Journal*, selections from which form a central part of the exhibition here. The oversized pages of the travel guide turned out to be an eerily appropriate canvas for Malkin's anxious visions, including a drawing of an "innocent," doe-eyed Hitler, and a portrait of Eichmann overtop a territorial map of Argentina that is surely one of the important historical portraits of the century.

Malkin continued to paint on maps and pages of newspapers, including a portrait painted on the front page of the *New York Times* the day of the Shah's fall. But the Holocaust remains the signal event in Malkin's life and art. Vorpai's cavernous spaces are a compelling, somber place to encounter these totems of a life lived in history, and of a time mid-century when good and evil seemed clear. ▼

Peter Malkin, Paintings and Prints remains on view through 4/19 at Vorpai Gallery, 393 Grove. Info: 397-9200.



The Lawrence Pech Dance Company presents world premieres by three young choreographers at Theater Artaud. See Thursday.

Fri

Alice in Bed

Susan Sontag's dramatic fantasy based on life of Alice James. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm. \$5-10. The Next Stage, Austin at Gough. 522-2365.

Cabaret Castro

Performers Allison Wright, Luis Bauz, Marcus Quilland-Nazario. \$6. 7:30pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 552-6031.

iCon la Boca Abierta!

La Familia de UC Berkeley, GLBT Latino student group, presents conference, "Voicing Struggle and Resistance in Queer Raza Communities." Fri. & Sat. UC Berkeley. (510) 643-5728.

Dirty Little Showtunes

Musical revue by Seattle lyricist Tom Orr, extended thru 4/20. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. \$15. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-TIXS.

En Drag

Female impersonators revue. \$5. 10&11:30pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

The Face by the Door

Kristina Robbin's solo show: lip-liner and a hot night in Dallas. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm. \$8-12. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 826-5750.

Gay Comedy Night

Suzy Berger, Danny Williams, Karen Ripley. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

H.E.A.L.

Scientist Raymond Francis discusses avoiding toxic medical treatments. 7pm. Park Branch Library, 1833 Page. 441-0685.

In a New Light:

"Creating Music for Today" concert by male vocal ensemble Chanticleer. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm. \$19-26. St. Gregory's, 500 De Haro. 392-4400.

LINES Contemporary Ballet

Alonzo King's ballet company opens 15th season. Wed.-Sun. thru 4/13, call for times. \$10-25. Center for the Arts Theater, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

The Mantel of Deborah

Domestic sculpture by Shilo D. Rives, reception tonight, 7:30pm. \$2-5. Thru 4/30. Luna Sea Gallery Space, 2940 16th St. #216C. 863-2989.

Mystery!

"In Search of the Missing Crowns," presented by Emperor Jacques Michaels & Empress Veronda Lanai. \$15. 8pm. Holiday Inn/Golden Gateway. 284-6339.

Phaedra and the Nurse

Drama with dance by Ann Woodhead and Theresa Dickinson. Thurs.-Sat. thru 4/12. 10. 8pm. Bindlestiff Studio, 185 6th St. 974-1167.

Rocky Horror Superstar

Klubstitute Collective presents Ruby Toodsy's spectacle, the Jesus of Frankfurter story. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm thru 4/19. \$15. Victoria Theater, 2961 16th St. 339-8113.

Stevan Key

Presents *Luminous Things*, studio performance, includes tiny opera for two women. \$5. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Ctr., 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

Stuff

Collaborative performance by Nao Bustamante and Coco

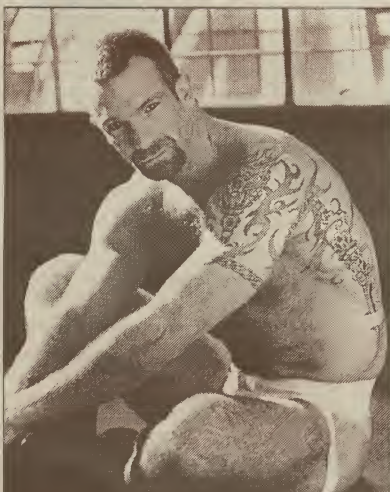
Fusco: Latin culture and Latin women. \$10. 8:30pm. Brady St. Dance Ctr., 60 Brady. 749-4545.

Suburbia 3000

An original rock musical by D'Arcy Drollinger, final installment of the *Brite Sleep* trilogy. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 4/26. \$14. SOMAR Theater, 934 Brannan. 995-4667.

Take Me to the Tenderloin, Now!

Collaboration between street photographer Ken Miller and choreographer Pearl Ubungen, about home and neighborhood. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 4/13. \$12.50-\$18.50. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.



Cory Jay of Acres of Ass 1&2 fame is one of the attractions at the Porn Star Cafe. See Saturday.

Tea and Crumpets

Original musical comedy by Joel Adlen and Steve Josephson. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 4/27. \$15. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 487-5473.

Topographical Eden

Play set in Ground Zero Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, 1976. Wed.-Sun. thru 4/13. \$17-21. Tonight at 8:30pm. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-8822.

Virgins and Other Myths

Andrew Nance in Colin Martin's play: an All-American turned sex addict. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, extended thru 4/12. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Sat 12

Auction Preview

Public preview of auction of photographs and prints, incl. Leibovitz, Adams, Wegman, more. 4/12-14. Butterfield & Butterfield, 220 San Bruno. 861-7500.

The Fence-Sitter's Lounge

Bisexual dance party, benefits *Anything That Moves* magazine. \$3-10. 9pm. Casanova, 527 Valencia. 626-5069.

Hearts on the Bay

Women's event: romance, dancing, blackjak, benefits Women's Cancer Resource Ctr. \$35. 8pm. Golden Gate Yacht Club, SF Marina. 331-6490.

Lavender Seniors

Potluck for gays & lesbians over 55. Noon. San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft. (510) 247-2046.

Lypsinka's Greatest Hits

"(The Second Farewell)," musical theater diva's new extravaganza. Tues.-Sun. thru 6/1, call for times. \$18-20. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Dance party w/Alice in Wonderland theme, benefits AIDS Benefits Counselors. \$8. 8pm. Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St. 487-1719.

Michael C. Botkin

Show commemorates life and work of journalist & provocateur. Sat. & Sun., 2-5pm thru 5/25. Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, 973 Market, 4th fl. 777-5455.

Porn Star Cafe

Gay dance club, erotic

dancers, sexual themes. \$10. 10pm-6am. 520 4th St.

Potluck Party

Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano, Spanish-speaking gay men and friends, hold potluck fiesta. Call for info. 863-7087.

Spring Splash Dance

Bay Area Career Women dance party. \$10 members, \$13 non-members. 8:30pm. 205 China Basin. 495-5393.

The Sweetest Hangover

(& other stds), cool grooves and chemical highs of underground queer club scene. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 4pm thru 4/27. \$10-14. Brava Theater Ctr., 2789 24th St. 647-2822.

Sun 13

Films by Yvonne Rainer

Survey of artist's films, incl. premiere of *MURDER and murder*. Fri. & Sun. at 1&3pm thru 5/4. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Lesbian Erotica

Carmen de Monteflores and Motherlounge Readers Theatre, benefits Alternative Family Project. 7pm. Montclair Women's Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. 436-9000.

Mecca

Luis Bauz, Marcus Quilland-Nazario, open mike, free. 1pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

On My Way to You

Cabaret performance by Lisa Gurevich. Sun. & Mon. at 8pm thru 4/21. \$15. Plush Room, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

SAGA North

SF gay & lesbian ski club holds season finale mtg., potluck. 6:30pm. First Unitarian, 1187 Franklin. 995-2772.

Slaves in Spandex

Alameda County Leather Corps presents bike auction, benefits their participation in Calif. AIDS Ride 4. 2pm. Turf Club, 22517 Mission, Hayward. (510) 881-9877.

Mon 14

Akropolis

Modus Mondays screens video of Jerzy Grotowski's Polish Laboratory Theatre production. \$4-7. 7:30pm. Media Screening Rm., Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 346-6456.

Gay Comedy Open Mike

MC Linda Moakes, aspiring funny performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Michelle T. Clinton

Poet, performer and radical spiritualist, interviewed by Charles Wilmoth. \$5. 8pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 552-7200.

Out on the Island

Alameda's gay/lesbian community action group meets. Coffee, 7pm; mtg. 7:30pm. 2311 Buena Vista, Alameda. (510) 337-1300.

Tues 15

Bubble Rap

Cartoon outtakes from artists' fantasies, incl. Timothy Cum-



Alan S. Quismorio, Art Desuyo, Joseph Pacheco-Ponce, and Al Lujan (l-to-r) are young queer people of color after-hours in *The Sweetest Hangover* (and other stds) at Brava Theater Center. See Saturday.

minings, Nicole Eisenmann, Jim Shaw, Kevin Woodson. Thru 5/11. Place Pigalle, 520 Hayes.

Closet Strategies

Installation by Sarah Lewison, with Gale Jesi's "Girls Girls Girls" and other installations. Thru 4/19. Southern Exposure, 410 Alabama. 863-2141.

Down the Road:

"Recent Photographs by Jo Babcock" exhibit. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/19. Terrain, 165 Jessie. 543-0656.

Growing into your Cultural Skin

Amorphic robot works, computer-controlled Chicano art by Chico MacMurtrie. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/26. Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th St. 826-8009.

Helen Cohen

Exhibition of miniature sculptures. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/26. Braunstein/Quay Gallery, 250 Sutter. 392-5532.

Hugh Shurley

Exhibition of mixed media collages. Thru 5/10. John Pence Gallery, 750 Post. 441-1138.

Michael J. McArdle

Paintings in acrylic and mixed media. Thru 4/30. Laguna Sidewalk Cafe, 297 Page. 863-7373.

Overlapping Lives

Trio of male vocalists: John Boswell, Brian Lane Green, Lee Lessack, in cabaret. Tues.-Sat. at 8pm thru 4/19. \$15. Plush Room, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Peter Malkin

Paintings and prints by the man who captured Eichmann. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/19. Vorpall Gallery, 393 Grove. 397-9200.

Psychophant

Mixed media graphic erotic art, thru April. Auto Erotica, 4077A 18th St. 861-5787.

Remember Cambodia

Sheila Pinkel's mixed-media project, with Ken Miller and Pearl Ubungen's *Take me to the Tenderloin, Now!* Thru 5/3. SF Camerawork, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

Sappho: No Ordinary Housewife

Exhibit of life and times of Greek poet Sappho. Thru 4/30. Hormel Center, SF Main Library, Civic Center. 510-222-4552.

Saved

Portraits of objects by photographer J. John Priola; with Nan Goldin's "Recent Photographs," thru 4/26. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 961-2661.

Slice

Polk St.'s only all-girl event. DomiMixtress Ginger slings cocktails, conversation. Tues., 7pm-2am. Upstairs, Kimo's, 1351 Polk.

20th Century Dance Music

SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band presents concert with modern dance troupe Arabesque. Free. 8:15pm. Bethany United Methodist, 1268 Sanchez. 554-0402.

Wed 16

Destination: Out

Exhibition of the art of Paul Craven: graphics promoting music. Wed.-Fri. thru 4/25. ESP, 305 Valencia. 252-8191.

Great Brits

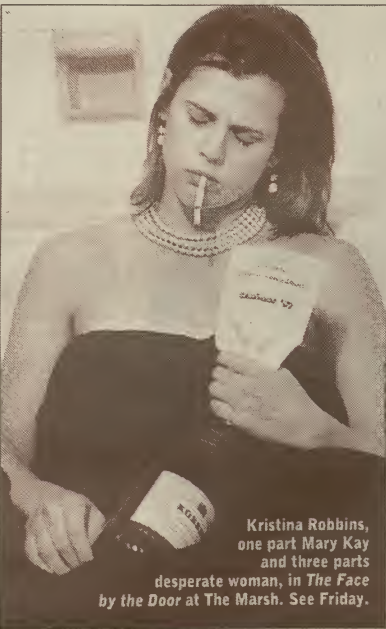
Exhibit of creative British influences on SF performing arts. Thru 6/14. PALM, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Jay DeFeo:

"The Florence View and Related Work" exhibit. Wed.-Sun. thru 6/1. Museo ItaloAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2556.

Lesbian and Gay Book Group

Meet to discuss Geoff Ryman's *Was*, free. 7pm. Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa, Kensington. (510) 559-9184.



Kristina Robbins, one part Mary Kay and three parts desperate woman, in *The Face by the Door* at The Marsh. See Friday.

Q Spirit

Spirituality group for gay men presents "Now That I'm Out, What Do I Do?," lecture by Brian McNaught. \$10. 7:30pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 281-9377.

The Royal Family

ACT's production of George S. Kaufman & Edna Ferber's classic play. Tues.-Sun. thru 4/20, call for times. \$19-47.50. Tonight at 8pm. Geary Theatre, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

Survival System Train

Sculpture by Kenji Yanobe on exhibit; also, Pepón Osorio's *Badge of Honor* and *Organically Grown* works. Tues.-Sun. thru 6/1. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Xavier Castellanos

Art exhibition, also: Paige Tuhey and Caroline Bai. Thru 5/30. 303 2nd St. 552-2592.

Thur 17

Bad Lesbian Poetry

Thea Hillman, Karlyn Lotney, Roxie, more. 7:30pm. The Bearded Lady, 14th St. near Guerrero.

Dine for a Change

Six restaurants donate portion of tonight's proceeds, benefits SF Women Against Rape. Info: 861-2024.

Frank Pietronigro

Retrospective exhibition of paintings and works on paper. Opens tonight, 5pm. Mon.-Fri. thru 6/27. Atrium Gallery, 901 Market. 695-0933.

Lawrence Pech Dance Company

Three world premieres, including Pech's *Tre Brata*. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 4/20. \$20.50-25. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida. 621-7797.

The Lonely Planet

Absurdist comedy about friendship and fear in age of AIDS. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 5/17. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Palpitations

Keith Hennessy in a performance remix. \$6. 8:30pm. SFAI Lecture Hall, 800 Chestnut. 771-7020.

Praise and Punishment Show

Fratelli Bologna in evening of competitive improv. Thurs. at 8pm thru 5/29. \$10. Bayfront Theatre, Bldg. B, Fort Mason. 285-4328.

Sent(a)Mental

Recent paintings & other works by transgender artist Daphne Schollinski, reception tonight, 6:30pm. Thru 5/4. Lawrence L. Hultberg Fine Art, 544 Hayes. 861-8251.

Smuin Ballets/SF

Creative director and members appear in costume, discuss roles in *Cyran*, free. 6:30pm. Borders Books, 400 Post. 399-1633.

The Talking Cure

Suzy Berger's one-woman show: a straight woman and the death of a gay friend. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 4/27. \$12-15. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

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The Talking Cure

Written and performed
by Suzy Berger



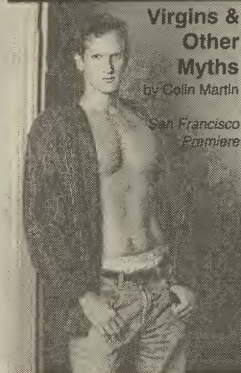
Lonely Planet

by Steven Dietz
directed by
Arturo Catricala



Virgins & Other Myths

by Colin Martin
San Francisco
Premiere



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Stars in the night

by Mister Marcus

The klieg lights were scanning the skies both north and south of Market Street last Friday night, April 4. The fabulous re-opening of Le Salon on Polk Street was the occasion for a private party where erotic video producers and their stars mingled with fans of every stripe. South of Market at the Eagle, Mr. San Francisco Leather Gary Virginia hosted his "last dance" benefit extravaganza that again saw persons of all persuasions mingling to celebrate Gary's stellar year with the city's highest leather title.

North of Market

At Le Salon, the shiny new interior is stocked with over 10,000 videos from major and minor studios. The decor is stunning and includes a caged, spotlight motorcycle right at the entrance. At the big bash, major porn actors mingled, sipped, ate and networked with everyone present. Dennis Tyler's lavish buffet graced the tables, and black and silver napkins and balloons added a touch of glamour to the event. The major studios like Catalina, Falcon, Zeus, Colt and other giants of the industry were well-represented. The next two nights were open to the public. If you haven't been to the new Le Salon on Polk Street, you owe yourself a visit.

South of Market

Any leather title holder who was not at the Eagle that same night was probably out of town or working hard for the money! The jam-packed patio of the Eagle was a mixture of gays, straights and a cornucopia of entertainers who volunteered to make it a memorable night for Gary Virginia's final fundraiser of his title year.

Musical numbers by individuals and organizations from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to a wild drumming group with good-looking male and female dancers lasted almost until closing



Ken Lyght was chosen Mr. July '98 on the BCC April 3 at the Eagle.

time. Gary passed out medals to various individuals who helped him with his successful year with the title. On top of that, Mayor Brown declared last Friday, April 4, Gary Virginia Day in San Francisco!

In just nine days (Saturday, April 19), the Mr. SF Leather title will be bestowed on a new man. At my deadline, there are already seven contestants vying for the honor. All those interested have until tomorrow (Friday, April 11) to enter the race. You must have been a resident of San Francisco for at least one year and pay a \$25 entry fee. Call 923-9811 to sign up!

Tickets for the Mr. San Francisco Leather '97 contest are going fast! Available at both Mister Slo-cations and at Auto Erotica (4077-A 18th St., upstairs), they're \$25/advance or \$30/door. Lots of

out-of-towners are coming, so get your tickets now!

Here comes the judge(s)

Who will pick the next Mr. San Francisco Leather? An inclusive panel has been selected by the Mr. San Francisco Leather '97 Contest Committee: International Ms. Leather Jill Carter, Mr. SF Leather Gary Virginia, Constantines MC President and former Emperor Doug Stromberg, San Francisco Leather Daddy Loren Berthelson and Paul Yinger (who has considerable experience both as a contestant and a judge). Input from the East Bay will be provided by judge Randy Wright, former Mr. Alameda County Leather and Mr. March on the current BC calendar. All are well-versed in the leather lifestyle, aware of the tremendous responsibilities, and have proven track records with or without titles.

The contestants are already gearing up for contest night. Meet the judges and contestants at the Eagle on Friday night, April 18. The judging interview is at 1100 the next morning. Doors open at the Russian Center at 1830 with a full-service liquor bar staffed by the Golden Gate Guards MC. The BCC men will be the users and also part of the entertainment between the judging segments. International Mr. Drummer Kyle Brandon and Queen Cougar will emcee. Dynamic song stylist Solomon Rose, comedienne Sabrina Matthews and the electrifying sounds of Pulse are extra added attractions.

The next morning, Sunday, April 20, Ms. Golden Gate Leather Beth Downey hosts a victory brunch for our new title holder at Harvey's at 1100 for \$15 with a silent art auction and raffle drawings. I hope you'll all be there.

Homo on the range

It wasn't all klieg lights, red carpets and accolades in town last week. On Thursday night, April 3, another crowd packed the Eagle for the Mr. July 1998 BC competition. Judges Skeeter Wildman, Dewey Brown and Lee Julien only had to deal with three contestants. The BC chorus was in good form, and the questions were fast, furious and in-depth. When the scores were added up, a bronzed, tattooed hunk — Ken Lyght — took



Bazaar



IMLs L Jill Carter (with IML Joe Gallagher) is one of the Mr. SF Leather contest judges.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, April 10

Butt-rageous contest and beer/soda bust at Daddy's at 2000 for \$7, with raffle tickets for surprises, etc. Produced by Leather Daddy Loren Berthelson to benefit the AEF.

Big Basket contest at The Edge tonight. The usual suspects: Danny Williams emcees; the Old Bag kibitzes and plays God; Eric Weinmann laughs all the way to the bank. Beer bust, \$100 prize, fame!

Friday, April 11

The Golden Dildeaux Awards will be presented at the SF Eagle tonight beginning at 2100, with a \$6 beer bust. George Carreras and Skeeter Wildman will be emceeing as some 40 presenters dole out the gold statuettes. Entertainment by the incomparable Lurch, Donna Sachet and Brian Benamati, plus some surprises.

Saturday, April 12

Cal Eagles MC's one-day ride to Santa Rosa and Luther Burbank Gardens leaves at 0930 from Daddy's. Bring bucks for gas, tolls, lunch. Call 267-0560.

Lou Duff's Hands on Rope class, 1300-1600, at 960 Harrison St. This week's subject: "Basic Rope Bondage." Call 550-0122 for details, cost, etc.

Mr. San Diego Leather Contest at Craftsman Hall (3909 Center St.) at 2000. Meet contestants and judges Friday night at Wolf's at 2200. Tix at Wolf's, SD Eagle and Hillcrest Gym for \$10/advance or pay \$12/door. Produced by Ed Morgan

and a whole lot of friends.

Sunday, April 13

"Slaves in Spandex" benefit for California AIDS Ride, 1400-1800, at Turf Club in Hayward, with auction of services by Alameda County leather title holders. Beer/soda bust for \$6 or \$8 with barbecue.

Wednesday, April 16

Leather Discussion Group meets upstairs at the Lone Star Saloon at 1930. Leather wear encouraged, and it's free! Topic not determined at deadline.

Wear your most outrageous/skimpiest/most provocative undies to 933 Harrison for Underwear Buddies at the usual time, usual rules, usual suspects. No skid marks allowed!

Thursday, April 17

Perky pees contest at the SF Eagle - choosing Mr. August '98 for the calendar, which benefits AEF. Win \$100. Meet celebrity judges. Laughs, raunch, BC Chorus!

Bears of SF present checks to beneficiaries of International Bear Rendezvous last February at 1930 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel (8th and Market). A bear prideful night indeed!

Constantines MC's beer/soda bust at Daddy's (2000-2300, \$6) includes a "roast" of Mr. SF Leather Gary Virginia by International Mr. Deaf Leather Daniel and Ms. GG Leather Beth Downey. This one should be fun!



Erotic star Steve Kelso (center) with admirers Lenny Broberg (left) and John Petek (far right) in Seattle.

the spot to wild applause. The first runner-up was Jim Rudolf. Out-of-town judges will be choosing Mr. August on Thursday, April 17.

On Saturday night, April 5, the Knights of Malta MC celebrated its fifth anniversary at the SF Eagle with a stunning commemorative pin and a five-star gourmet buffet. Even the birthday cake was fabulous! The Knights were mostly in formal leather wear, and everyone seemed to be having a great time schmoozing and socializing. Congratulations!

Reviving three leather titles

A few years ago, a Boston leather person launched an ambitious leather title blitz that he envisioned would eclipse the long-established IML, IMLs and IM Drummer titles. The competition was called American Leather Man, American Leather Woman and American Leather Boy. A lot of good people won those titles, plus a few others that were added on later, but the project was doomed from the beginning because of the abrasive control-freak nature of the original producer.

The event was last produced in 1995 in Washington, D.C., when the Boston producer managed to alienate everyone who tried to

help. Sensing the rapidly evaporating support, said producer wisely sold the rights to the event to an entrepreneur from Utica, N.Y. The new owner promptly abolished the cowboy titles and now concentrates on the three leather titles alone.

After a one-year hiatus, American Brotherhood Weekend returns April 24-26. Once again, the big kahunas of leatherdom will attempt to breathe life into these three titles.

The weekend package is only \$65 for all the events in Washington, D.C. (They couldn't have picked a better season!) Tickets are available by contacting Able Productions, P.O. Box 5130, Utica, NY 12505-5130. The host hotel is the stunning new Howard Johnson Suites at 1430 Rhode Island Ave. NW, with discounted rates of \$89. The hotel is two blocks from Dupont Circle, and you can reserve by calling (800) 368-5690 and mention Group ID 0424.

I'll be on the judging panel. Make your plans now! Nothing is sweeter than springtime in the capital! Leather men and women from around the U.S. are eligible to enter. Both men and women are eligible for the American Leather Boy title inasmuch as the producer realizes the concept of a "leather boy" is more a state of

mind and state of being than a matter of gender. If you want to compete, contact ABLE Productions at the address listed above.

The crass managerie

Same old story! Every time the Golden Dildeaux Awards nominations are announced, someone who is unclear on the concept of camp/humor/fun always gets pissed off about his/her category. In this case, a high-profile leather man on the bike club circuit, the royal court system and an AIDS agency absolutely lost control when he saw his name in one of the campier categories! Puh-leeze! In this community, the Holy Cows are expected to "play the game," and if you can't handle it, just drop out! And "Mr. Madder Than Hell," your conduct at the Gary Virginia benefit last Friday night was totally uncalled for. We were completely unaware of your very thin skin!

Well, lookie here! A new leather-ish bar recently opened in Monterey, not far from the long-established After Dark. I don't know the name of the bar (yet!), but Warren Cave, who literally helped christen it, could probably tell you. They say Warren made rather a "splash" on opening night! Hi, Warren darling! Visiting Houston again soon! ▼

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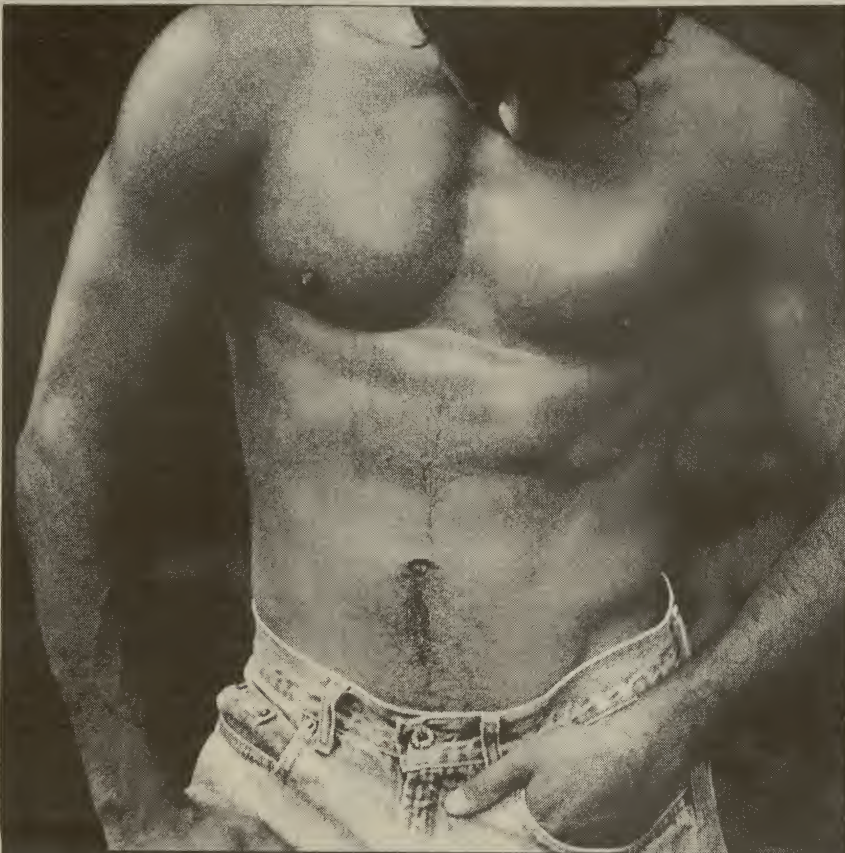
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PARTING GLANCES

United Fit 990, March 5
Can't stop thinking about you. You smiled and nodded. I followed. Want to see you again & play like we did in the lavatory over Texas & Nevada. ☎ 5501.

Delores park Boy Beach
Sunday 3/9, 3PM. You started leaving, our eyes met. (!!!) You stood looking back. Me: dumbstruck, short hair, blue shorts. You: buzz cut, goatee, jeans. Forgive my paralysis? ☎ 5502.

Muni Bus 42 2 Wharf 3/4 4:30PM
Me: bl/bl, stache, glasses, from Arlington, VA, going to Underwater World. You: dark hair, glasses, handsome, work in card shop? Exited Nob/Russian Hill? Long shot, hope that you read BAR. ☎ 5503.

Grand Central Mkt Sun 3/16 7PM
You: baseball cap, handsome, goatee. Me: blond, red jacket, jeans. Was in hurry would have liked to talk—we smiled at check stand—how about dinner? ☎ 5504.

You Sang Danny Boy 3/9
Which was beautiful. I enjoyed your company. When you next visit DC, I'd love to take you to dinner. Jim. ☎ 5505.

Poor Superman Friday March 14
We said hello twice—how about a third time? Me: red head, green shirt. You: very sexy & handsome. Let's meet again. ☎ 5550.

Kinki's At Market St-Mon 3/17 2:30 in afternoon & we caught each other's smile. You: cute guy in blue jeans, driving a red Ford Explorer. Me: short guy w/mustache in red Miata. liked your smile. Call me. ☎ 5551.

Carlos, Underwear Buddies 3/19
Loved the way you kiss. I want to see you again, but have lost your phone #. Give me a call & let's get together! Tim. ☎ 5601.

Return Of The Jedi Preview 3/11
At Galaxy theater. you: beard, lined jean jacket, unbuttoned white shirt, jeans. me: beard, black T-shirt, black jeans, leather jacket. Exchanged several glances leaving theater. Would like to meet. Please call. ☎ 5552.

Powell St. BART 3/17 7:20PM
You: handsome, Latin brother (Rican?) with red glasses & computer chipboard. me: black guy in leather jacket reading. We both on Richmond train, you off at 12th St. Let's meet & talk stuff. ☎ 5553.

3/20 24Hr Van Ness 2:00 PM
You: dark hair 7 eyes, working on arms. me: brown hair & mustache, working on chest. Call rite after 3/30. Can't get you out of my mind. ☎ 5602.

3/16 Corner Of Bush & Mason
Spoke briefly—I had friends for dinner & had to go. Verbal phone #—but—the moment was magical. Please call, Jim. ☎ 5603.

Mack Wed 3/19
You: goatee, great hairy chest, sensational mouth. Me: bald, goatee, smooth. We kissed, then played. Saw you at the door, asked you to stay to finish what we started, you had to leave. Let's pick up where we left off. ☎ 5604.

My Place Sunday Night March 16 J., M. and M.: you accosted me, dragged me to a dark alley, vigorously fucked my throat. Please call for repeat performance, or see me Tuesdays at bar. B. ☎ 5605.

Church St. Muni Sta 3/23 11AM
Boarded downtown car. You got off Van Ness. Me: black leather jacket, white cowboy hat. Styly turned my back. Friend says you gave admiring glances. Love to meet, please call. ☎ 5610.

Friday 3/21 Castro St. Muni 7AM
Crowds forced us to wait for third train to Embarcadero. you: short, dark hair, great eyes. Me: graying hair, green sweatshirt. Want to pick-up conversation where we left off. Coffee? ☎ 5705.

Still Waiting—Still Hoping
Remembering our good times—Downtown—you: Thai, beautiful & loving & sweet. I'll be a very private number two for you. Remember, just waiting. Keith. ☎ 5608.

John, Fast Walker
We met at My Place 3/22. You said you'd be back in half an hour but I didn't see you. I'd like to connect. Ken. ☎ 5609.

Folsom Gulch Men 2/17 Tue 2/18
Paul from Berkeley (w/Lone Star shirt): I repeat—you are one hot, delicious big boy. Kisses to die for, too. Andrew. ☎ 5606.

Peterbuilt T-Shirt Fri 3/21
18th Street near Church. you: tall, red, gorgeous. Me: brown hair, beard, you looked back but kept walking. Call me, Stud. ☎ 5607.

Steamworks, Sun Nite 3/23
Paul from Berkeley (w/Lone Star shirt): I repeat—you are one hot, delicious big boy. Kisses to die for, too. Andrew. ☎ 5606.

Sean? 3/21 B. Buddies
You: baseball cap, great kisser and awesome body. Me: white boy, wanted to talk more but had to find my ride. You sounded so sweet. Want to get together again? Mitch. ☎ 5701.

Fit 2140 Burbank To SF Easter
You: blk, short & tie. Me: wht, jeans & T-shirt. We read the same magazines, smiled a lot. PIs call. ☎ 5702.

Daniel 3/25 Tues.
You responded to my ad about leather & rubber; was impressed! Tried to call, but phone # you left me doesn't work (area code?). Please call so we can get together! ☎ 5703.

Good Friday F-Market Lther Dad
Mid afternoon 3/28-1st: F-line, 2nd: 1 block from Virgin you carrying Nordie's bag. You: short buzzed cut, goatee, polo, keys left. Me: leather cub in boots & suspenders. Both: wearing mirrors. I responded to greeting w/"Hi Daddy." I'd like to say more-Dinner? ☎ 5708.

Mark P. Oscar Night Delivery
I delivered to you from Tony Roma's. The ribs were hot but you were hotter. Would love to play with your beautiful chest & butt. Please call. Jonathan. ☎ 5704.

Stanford Mall 3/24 @ 4PM
I catch your smile & follow you to parking & stood by the curb only to watch you go in your Toyota truck. Call me can't get you off my mind. ☎ 5706.

3/24 Civic Ctr BART 3:40PM
Fremont train; you & I waited for delayed doors to open, we smiled; dbl takes. You: khaki shorts w/sweater around waist; Me: trying to find you. ☎ 5707.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Passionate—Romantic Asian
Sought by not too old, not too young Italian male for friendship, romantic interludes, no hang ups. Cuddling, caressing, leading to ultimate moment of truth. Someone who enjoys togetherness. ☎ 5506.

Affectionate LM
Affectionate LM, 42, 6', 150#. ISO WM or LM over 35 for possible relationship. Prefer blue collar, non-professional, rustic looking Tenderloin types. no drugs, gym, gay scene, Republicans. Smokers A+. ☎ 5507.

Hopful Romantic Pos Man
GWM, 43yo, 5'11", 180#, masculine, dark hair/eyes, furry, good build, into outdoors, bike riding, hiking, travel, cooking, old movies, beaches, sunsets, kissing, romance, honesty, passion, commitment, hot sex, relationship. ☎ 5508.

GWM ISO Partner
38, 190, brn/grn, must/brd. Well read, prof, stable. Likes: music, theater, movies, museums, parks, motorcycling. Seeking: gentle male, 25-40, intell, must/brd, beards, 150-210#, not overly butch or femme. Want relationship not sex buddy. ☎ 5615.

Tall, Dark & Fashionable
GBM seeks other HIV-, GLM/GBM for LTR. Me: 6'3", 195#, cute, good sense of humor. You: top, enjoys sports, long walks, lots of fun. 25-45 years of age. ☎ 5509.

GAM ISO GWM
GAM, 31, 6', 165 lbs, is looking for steady boyfriend (GWM bwn 25-40 yrs). New in town like to get over with boredom. ☎ 5510.

Attractive Hispanic
GLM, 31, black hair, brown eyes, goatee, very affectionate, HIV-, professional 5'7", 150#, looking for GWM or Italian for friendship or maybe more. Call me! ☎ 5511.

Romance Under The Moon
GAM, 29, 5'8", 165, enjoy outdoor activity and travel, looking for romance and possible relationship with GWM/GLM, 22-35, professional & have nice body. ☎ 5512.

HIV Blu Collar Sm. Time Operator
Black, low key, med br skin, 5'10", 170#, thin build. Enjoy working with hands, fixing, making & restoring things. you: race unimportant, thin or lean build, under fifty into outdoor activities. Sorry no bear types. ☎ 5513.

ISO Dominant 40's
Attractive, in shape, 43, 5'7", 145, nice guy, sense of humor, professional, interests, outdoors, seeks guy with dominant verbal side, in shape, masc, HIV-, career, stable, interests. (balding, beard, goatee +). ☎ 5514.

Prostate Massage For GBM
GWM, 43, 6', beard, HIV-, 150 lbs, seeks interested GBM, HIV-, for safe, relaxing, pleasurable fun. Reciprocity welcome but not required. ☎ 5515.

Big Feet Big Hands
GWM, 6'8", 350#, brown/green, goatee, artist, gourmet cook, sports fan, movie/theater goer, seeks someone with similar interests for dating and maybe more. ☎ 5516.

Athletic Asian
49, 5'9", 150#, seeks smooth, clean-shaven, gym-toned WM into hiking, work-outs, sports, dancing, arts & travel for urban & wilderness adventures. ☎ 5517.

Goodlooking, Healthy GAM
5'9", 145#, looking for long term monogamous relationship. You must be passionate. Enjoy outdoor activities, and under 35. ☎ 5518.

Elmo Looking For Cookie Monster
GBM, 36, outgoing personality 195 lbs, 6', hairy bottom seeking LTR with a spontaneous, easy guy with a stable personality. ☎ 5519.

Is It In The Stars?
top seeks Leo or Sagittarius bottom. Sex, friendship, or LTR? ☎ 5520.

Massage Strong & Lengthy
Wanted by handsome, athletic, smooth, friendly Asian male on a regular basis. I want full body erotic massage. ☎ 5521.

Middle-Eastern Looking
5'9", 150, attractive accent seeks masculine man (who doesn't) to early 40th for the right adventure. ☎ 5522.

Wanted: Leather Daddy For LTR
Hot GWM, 40, 180, 5'11", needs full time Daddy into WS, BD, spankings, humiliation, chastity, catheters, diapers, shaving, mild SM, & oral service. You: 30-50, hot, experienced & serious. Diapers a must, sir! ☎ 5554.

Looking For Love
Attractive 47 year old white male. Blond, blue eyes, 195, 6', caring, affectionate. loves music, massage, dancing, movies, intimacy at home. Looking for Asian, white males under 40. ☎ 5555.

Uncut FF Top
6', 180, gym body, HIV- into FF, pranking, shaving, TT, ISO LTR with trim, very masc. guy under 36, no drugs. Inexp. preferred, will respect U and limits. ☎ 5612.

HIV+ Friend/Lover? Enjoy Life
Ital. 59, 6'1", 220#, masc, grt shape seeking cauc or Asian for friend or poss. lover. U/B: any age, under 40, HIV+ & sex pref unimportant. Let's meet & talk. ☎ 5613.

Romantically Challenged
Hit 50 men no longer find me attractive. Cute, preppie, look 40, work out, extremely fashionable, professional, educated, HIV-. I can't meet a man. Similar WASP, under 45, call me. ☎ 5614.

Sword Swallower?
No, but a hard dick is something else! Nothing sharp. And—sucked right—it shoots a thick creamy mouthful, yum yum. So, I take care to suck you off right! ☎ 5616.

ISO Stocky & Outgoing GWM
For senseless laughter/romantic adventures; prefer farm boy values, urban sophistication, 25-35, 185#+, 5'8"+, clean-cut, employed, hairy, athletic, HIV-, NS/ND; Similar friendly, masculine GAM, 5'10", 165#, 27, spiritual, gym, movies. ☎ 5617.

Lay An Egg
WM, 5'11", 165, wants LTR with Asian or Latino, short, slim, must speak fluent English. Dinners, movies, dancing, travel. Like cats, 60-70's music, NS/ND, light drinker OK, 25-35. ☎ 5618.

Sexual Healing
GBM, top, prof, 40's, ISO GWM bottom, 50 yrs or above who's physically & emotionally available to pursue a LTR. I'm a lite smoker & drinker, you must be medium to stocky built. ☎ 5619.

Want Dating, Possible LTR
GWM, 6'1", 170#, brn/blu, clean shaven, good shape, 47, vgl, safe, hung, HIV+. Cal grad student, successful 15yr LTR. Enjoy dining out, gardens, zoo. You: similar, vgl, bottom, younger. ☎ 5620.

All About Steve
Sr, GWM, 5'10", 150, clean mind & body seeks younger man for mutual pleasure. Discreet but fevered for S/G/Bi nice guy. ☎ 5621.

You Are Black, 35-37
And built beautifully. I am 35, white, a lot handsome and a little heavy. Love is a question mark. How do minds meet? What magic presses the seed to grow? Sex & love. What do you think? ☎ 5622.

GWM Sks GAM With Good Heart
Me: 38, 5'7", 160 lbs, fit, attractive, short, balding hair, blue eyes, HIV+, very healthy, good natured, fun, enjoy life, healthy lifestyle. You: under 40, slim to medium build. ☎ 5623.

Expert Cocksucker
Senior GWM, 5'7", 130#, begs to worship masc, verbal topper, over 40, wgt proportion. Cauc or Asian. ☎ 5624.

GWM ISO GAM — Wanna Ride?
Got motorcycle, or want to ride on mine? Good/young-looking, stable/professional, 30-something, GWM seeks Asian partner to share the road. Weekend rides, exploring, hiking...more? Let's go. ☎ 5625.

Affectionate Caring Romantic
GWM, 34yo, 5'7", 135#, dark hair/eyes. Enjoy travel, the arts, theater, hiking, cooking & staying in with a good movie, beaches, walking, spending time with a special man. Me: HIV+. ☎ 5709.

I Needs A Boyfriend
Seeking GWM, age 28-50 yr, & attractive, handsome. My name is Tsumu. I'm Japanese, 40yr, 5'6", 140#, smooth, clean shaven. ☎ 5710.

Me4U=U4Me=A+4Relationships
Cute guy: Nordic blonde, blue eyes, SCWM, handsome, sexy, warm, humorous, lovable: early 40's—seeks dating to lead to mutual, attraction, eventual LTR with 24-38yo SGWPM collegiate type, goodlooking, sexy, unaffected, loving & romantic. ☎ 5711.

The Fulfilling Thing
About sucking you off ain't your big meat but your spurring load, swallowed to last drop. You'll ask me back: I come! you cum! Anytime. Starting now! ☎ 5712.

Friendly Daddy Needs Love
GWM, 6'3", 250#, brown/blu, professional & discreet. Enjoys mutual massage. Movies, dining out, weekend trips. Looking for GWM, 30-50 to share interest & love. ☎ 5713.

Opposites Do Attract
ISO HIV+, 30+, 40+, big pecs-biceps w/mind & heart wanting LTR. Me: 5'10", 190#, crewcut, stocky hrd-wrk, reg guy ISO growing old w/partner. ☎ 5714.

Mr. Sandman I Need A Dream!
Healthy HIV+ LM, 27, 5'5", 175#, pierced, tattooed, cute home bodish, into movies, dancing, Star Trek and other stuff seek W/LM, 25-40, for talks, coffee, bonding, cuddling & kissing. ☎ 5715.

Wanted: Asian/Latin Boyfriend
Me: WM, 44, 5'9", 155#, HIV+, doing great on protease, fun, smart, loves outdoors, creative, many interests, loyal & supportive seeks companion to share the quiet, magic moments of life. ☎ 5716.

On A Spiritual Path
HIV+, WM, 32, 170#, hazel eyes, Gemini, attrac, sense of humor, healthy! Mind/body/spirit. Into: tennis, outdoors, spirituality (Holist) movies, campingsports. You: 25-35, attrac, spiritual, nature lover, masc, healthy w/a good heart, race not important. ☎ 5717.

White Male; 46, 5'11", 185 lbs.
Into outdoors, country living. I hunt, fish and camp, and want a partner. Be Caucasian, physically fit, 40 and under. Be masculine. Be real. Be a man. ☎ 5718.

Romantic Asian Top Dreamer
Handsome, healthy, GAM sks classy, mature, gentleman, over 50 yrs. Me: 5'8", 140#, 40 yrs, professional, seeking for LTR (monogamous), who I can trust/respect, honesty as father type of person and sense of humor. ☎ 5719.

Intergenerational Couple?
GWM, 64, 6'2", 300#, bald, mustache, hairy chest, retired, travels. Seeks GM, 45 or under, for friendship and hopefully much more. ☎ 5720.

Clean Cut All-American Guy
Seeks monogamous relationship. Me: 31, 5'8", 160#, muscular, lightly hairy, firm body, brn/brn, handsome face, HIV-, professional. You: similar GWM/GLM, versatile, stable. S ☎ 5721.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Watch Porn
Smoke, stroke & poke — Cigars, cock, toys. Your place. ☎ 5523.

Seek Afternoon Cock Play Buddy
Let's give each other sensual pleasure w/kissing, roaming hands, stroking, licking & sucking. Ball play, also. Healthy, HIV-, late 40's, 6', 169 lbs. Discreet, sincere, friendly. Thanks. ☎ 5524.

Hot Latino Guy Likes To Suck Big Dicks. Also get fucked. Redwood city area. I'm 29 years old. Please call. ☎ 5525.

Tall, Hungry, Hairy, Bearded Dad
Totally masculine Dad into butch hairy stashed sons, any age & other hairy dicks who want to be jacked & suckin' buddies. Expert cocksucker. ☎ 5526.

Like To Give Head??
GWM, 37, dark hair, olive skin, horny. For guys that can give me head for hours...trust me. I can last. UB: GWM, GLM, 18-40, with wet mouth! Nice cock. Will travel. ☎ 5527.

Hot Submissive GWM
Seeks to lie between the legs of big dommed master. Let me work on it through your jack until I get the bone. Tell me what to do. Sir, hurry. ☎ 5528.

Looking For One Special Guy
To fuck my face on a regular basis—late night sex—Castro location, hot Italian cocksucker, hungry to service you & get you off regularly. I eat ass too. ☎ 5529.

Looking GLM/GLM For Hot Times
GWM, 44 years young (look 30's), blue/brown, 6', 148#, slim-build, gym-toned, goatee, top & HIV-. Seeking GLM/GLM, 21-50, for playmates & safe sex. ☎ 5530.

Butt Boy For Stud/Dad
Clean cut, nice looking GWM, 60 yr, 5'8", 180, brn/brn, 7 and oral, wms Masc., submissive. ☎ 5531.

Bareback Top Seeks Companion
GWM, 60, nice looking, 6'1", 165#, warm, caring, HIV-, endowed, seeks gentle friend for cuddling, kissing, complete external/internal massage sessions/overnights. LTR desired. No smoking/drugs. Any age/race. ☎ 5532.

Sacramento Cuntass
46, 5'8", 155 lbs., smooth, shaved, pierced, TT, CBT, FF, leather, aroma, smex, etc. HIV+ your place. ☎ 5533.

Fun Manhole
Plunge/pound your hungry hand into my deep, white, hot, flesh...hot man seeks same for intimate prolonged session. ☎ 5534.

Married 38yo Longhaired 5'11"
175 lbs, seeks one-on-one encounters or in-shape couples. Tight virgin butt—very orally inclined & affectionate. Hairy bodies, red/blonde hair a plus but not a necessity. Discreet. ☎ 5535.

No Gag Reflex—I Swear!
Zone out for comprehensive oral relief from this GWM with no gag reflex and hyper salivary throat. Other particulars: 6/170/40s/hair-challenged, big-grinned, big-hearted, and fairly big-brained nice fella. And welcome back, returnees! ☎ 5536.

Mature Mules
WM, 36, 5'11", 157 lbs, brn/brn, attract, slim but out-of-shape, big dick, vers, seeks fantasy with hung, hairy, over 55, B/W/L, top. Hung only, couples considered. ☎ 5537.

Total Anal Bottom Bear
45, 5'10", 185#, beard, balding, hairy. I'm on my belly, my big white ass waiting for studs to fuck my asshole. All ages/races. Maybe gang fuck me! ☎ 5536.

Hot Handsome Hung Top...
GWM, 40's, 6', 165#, br/gr, healthy HIV+, established, affectionate, romantic, at home kind of guy. Seeking masculine, in shape bottom, hairy, beard, uncut A+. ☎ 5557.

Tall Curious Bottom
Seeks passionate top. Any race, 18-45, 5'10" or taller. 8" or more. ND/NS, HIV-. ☎ 5558.

Unload
Oral worship to disease/drug free men in need. Drop in & leave with a smile. Flexible times. Call today. ☎ 5637.

Hot Bottom Wants Fuck Buddy
SGWM, br/hzl, 5'11", 175, 7", 50, HIV+, workout. ISO under 50, in shape top with hungry mouth and cock to service a seasoned bottom—deep kissing, rimming, fucking my mouth & ass, sucking. Daytime or evening. 3 ways OK. Regular servicing. ☎ 5559.

Wanna Fuck...Now?
Masc, trim, GWM, 39, 5'11", 147#, hot horny ass ready to be fucked by mass bareback fuckers only. ☎ 5560.

Attached Italian Skis Similar
40yo, 190#, 5'11", br(bald)/br, hairy, goatee, hung top in LTR. Skis other GWM in SF for discreet sexual pleasure. Vers & hairy A+. ☎ 5561.

Just Shut Up And Ride
WM, 30, 5'10", 195#, blonde-blue-eyed, musc hunk wants good-looking & masculine men to pump me full of squirt—anytime. ☎ 5564.

Brother To Brother
Black male, 37, 5'11", 180 lbs w/thick cock looking for masculine Latin bottom for suck, fuck & makeout sessions. Hairy ass A+. ☎ 5562.

Wanted: Big Firm Butt
Versatile, 5'11", 23"-built, hung big needs Cau men, 20-30's, well-built w/big hairy bubble butt to eat & fuck. ☎ 5562.

Big Dick Needs Ass To Fuck
Me: 53, white male, 6', 155#, brn hair/brn eyes, 9" cock, hairy chest. You: white, under 40, smooth bodied, hot horny ass. Obedient bottom. ☎ 5562.

Seeking Men Over 40
Seeks masculine GWM's, 40-65, non-smokers, HIV-, for fun mutual oral sex, tit play. Singles & couples welcome. Hairy, facial hair a plus. ☎ 5562.

Afternoon Cock Play-Discreet
Pleasure wkdays-GWM-48, 168#, HIV-, 6', have LTR seeks similar for extra pleasure & play. Kissing, exploring hands & tongue, stroking, oral & ball play, sucking & licking. I have 7"-a cock ringed rd w/big shaved balls. ☎ 5563.

Mutual Dildo Action
43yo, 5'11", 240 lbs., stocky, hung, seeks other stocky, heavy men into mutual dildo pleasure. Must be discreet. your place, weekdays, afternoons. ☎ 5561.

Hot Italian & Latino
GWM, 6', 180, HIV-, NS/ND, likes 6" uncut or cut got movies for fun, hot times possible LTR. Age no factor or race. Ed. ☎ 5562.

Seeking Latino Slave
Hot, experienced, Master, 40's, HIV-, goatee, into bondage, CBT, TT, SM, similar, etc. ISO in shape, Latino slave for long sessions. Let's party. ☎ 5563.

Boys Who Need A Big Brother
33 yo, GWM, 5'11", 180#, HIV- seeks hot boys, 18-26, who need an older buddy to help them have fun, masculine, athletic guys only, new to scene or br's OK! ☎ 5564.

Executive Decision
Attractive GWM, 6'1", 30, 185, brown hair & eyes & perfect ass. Work in the financial district, looking for hot daytime—executive fun. Looking for similar characteristics. Sex-Office-Fun! ☎ 5563.

Aggressive White ISO Black Men
Lookin' for a passionate, take-charge wrestler to make sexy hot love with your blackness? Usually mistaken for a top? Good-looking & my size? Me: 6' X 175#, shaved head, tatted. Taurus. ☎ 5563.

Muscle Toy
ISO muscle, hung thick, tops. French-Asian, 28yo, new to SF seeks hot, week-day/end sex with dominant fuck buddy. I am very buff, muscular. You be too. ☎ 5638.

Shamanic Body Play
Bondage enthusiast interested in Shamanism ISO a masochist, 20-40, for exploration & partnership. You must be in shape, hung, experienced & serious. I'm 5'9", 180#, handsome, uncut, in shape sadist. Serious only. ☎ 5639.

Asian Muscle
Clean-cut, buff GWM, 36, 5'10", 173#, seeks hard body guy for safe fun. Tit play, ass play, body contact, J/O. ☎ 5640.

Dad's Boy Needs Black Fuck
My boy (W, 6', 150, 8 1/2") fantasies about being fucked and worked over by one or more hot black men. Into all scenes, give great parties & party favors. ☎ 5641.

Hot Latino Top
Me: 36 yrs, 5'4". You're 30-40 yrs, bottom, slim, clean & attractive. I like to fuck guys, Latinos, Italians & whites. ☎ 5722.

Latin Or European? Got A Nice
Uncut boner? Want sucked? GWM, 36, 6', 195#, 9" cut, gives head. Drink beer, watch porno, lay back. ☎ 5723.

ISO: Hung Black Studs
2 very hot white studs are looking to get fucked raw by hung black studs who like to play late in the Castro. Get serviced by 2 pussy boys! ☎ 5724.

Hard body Gym Jock Wanted
I want to fuck your rock-hard body with my hot 8" rock-hard dick & play with your tits. you must be a waist size of 28-31 inches. Veiny arms a plus. ☎ 5725.

Two Hungry Asians!
Early 20's Asian couples seek a top, you must be under 30 and are very goodlooking. Asian/Latino only. ☎ 5726.

Seeking Private SF Glory Holes
WM, 40's, HIV-, average build, verbal, needs head through your hole 2-3x week. You: HIV-, slim or muscular, submissive, deep throat cum lover. I cum several times per visit. ☎ 5727.

Cock Slave Wanted
I want a cock slave who will suck my dick for hours/days. Also into fucking, FF, WS, bondage, etc. have sling, bondage bar, toys. Take care of my dick & I'll take care of your needs. ☎ 5728.

Handsome Blond Top
Hung 8" uncut, in shape, mustache, seeks friendly, sincere bottoms to 45 for hot times in the morning. Let's do it! ☎ 5729.

Afternoon Delight
Easy Bay drop by afternoons and we'll watch a hot flick while you fuck my face and feed me your big balls. ☎ 5730.

Fisting And Or Huge Nipples
masculine muscle Daddy, 47, great body with a big dick. Desires to fist in shape men up to 40 yrs old or play with in shape men with huge nipples. ☎ 5731.

Sex Slave Wanted
Handsome Asian bodybuilder with defined muscular physique, honey brown smooth skin needs hot tongue, expert wet mouth, responsive cute ass for his pleasure. Want to get tied up and used sensuously, mercilessly? You: adventurous, eager and cute. ☎ 5732.

E.B. Fuck Buddy Wanted
Me: 6', 160#, 45, white, HIV-. Want to suck, rim and get my hairy ass fucked. Any age or race. Camcord? ☎ 5733.

Young Seeking Young
23yo, GWM seeks attractive, 22-30, GWM for passionate, intimate sex. Looking for understanding & openness & friendship. Clean & sober responses only please. Thank you. ☎ 5738.

Lover
Blk Daddy, 6', 49, 200 lbs, into white and Latin submissive bottoms, 35+, with facial hair who are eager to please, massage, play safely. ☎ 5734.

Leather Daddy
Seeks submissive boy-slave, 25-35, short, slim, or gym-toned for domination, bondage, dog-training, flogging & symphony. Brains must, good looks desirable. ☎ 5735.

Man Pussy
Fuck my slick wet man-cunt and fill me with your love juice. GWM, 39, 6', 165#, HIV+, German/Italian. Also into handballing & watersports. Lean A+. ☎ 5736.

Leather Brothers Wanted
21yo leather cop cub looking 4 Brothers to play and hang with-possible start a family. You: GWM, no drugs, have great outlook on life! ☎ 5737.

Wanna Empty Your Balls?
Strip down in darkness & feel my mouth wrapped around your cock & tongue darting in & out of your ass by hot Italian stud in Castro. ☎ 5739.

FETISHES

Wants Cock & Ball Torture
SJ bear is looking for experienced top to stretch my testicles, stimulate by cock with unique methods, and teach me the pain/pleasure of CBT. ☎ 5538.

Hoods & Flogging
Roofie, black collar punk, wears derby jackets, shaved head needs severe flogging, 28 years-tattoos, cholos, street punks, boot stompers only. ☎ 5539.

Handball Party Time
If you're a heavy duty power trip top fist, any age, race, for action, above all else, and want someone who can keep up with you, even enjoy it, call me anytime. 7 days a wk. I have bondage sling, toys, etc. in or out. Top, cpis, groups welcome. ☎ 5540.

Sit On A Happy Face!
Husky, hairy Daddy bear, mid 40's, wants to eat your fuzzy butt. UB under 40, in-shape, attractive with a hairy hole. Reciprocation and on going great. your place please. ☎ 5541.

Rim Chair Service
Your hole must protrude & have lots of lip on it. You: hot, in shape, 21-45. me: very attractive, hot, great tongue. 40, 5'11", 165#. ☎ 5542.

Huge Pecs?
Muscular, clean cut WM, 42, 6', 185#, HIV-. Serious, strong, all-male. Seeks beefy, fit, passive WM with massive, erogenous pecs. Masculine, modest, sincere. ☎ 5543.

Hot Guy W/Tot Ring Skis Barefoot
Buddy, Masculine, tan, goodlooking Easy Bay GWM, 5'8", 140#, HIV-craves reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing, massaging, naked body closeness, safe JO, fantasies. light odor, toughened soles OK. Further friendship possible. ☎ 5544.

Tickle Bottom Seeks Top
Hold me down, make me squirm. tie me up, make me squirt. Sexy boy, 30, 5'8", 130, into being restrained, slow JO. You are in charge. ☎ 5742.

Hot Nasty 54 Wants His Ass
Tongued by GWM/GLM only Concord. This 54 yr old is long to have his ass tongued deep inside by other GWM/GLM. ☎ 5546.

Romance And Submission
Attractive, intelligent foot boy, 27, for naturally dominant nurturing foot master—strong, honest, unpretentious man who appreciates devoted sensual attention to his big feet & body. Tall, vital, affectionate, outdoor types A+. ☎ 5748.

Bald GLM Uncut Active Daddy
59, 5'8", 180#, & bond, passive cut GWM son 45, 5'10", 160#, seek 3-way kink fun with mature only 35+; spanking, dressing-up, bondage, WS, video, toys & safe ass play. ☎ 5547.

Gangbangs?
Tall, glding top seeking other attractive tops interested in getting together on semi-reg basis for some GB fun. Must be willing to participate no just watch. Let's talk. ☎ 5548.

Leather Bottom Seeks Flogging
Experienced leather bondage bottom, 46, seeks safe, sane, experienced sensual flogging leather top. Wanting to start patiently in order to fly. no drugs. ☎ 5562.

Slut Boy Wanted!
Dominant Dyke couple seek gay slave boy to spank and control, submissive only need play. We want your dentine & loyalty, like my boots now! ☎ 5642.

FF Pig Skis Other Nasty Pigs
Who are versatile and can't get enough: FF, slings, leather, latex, BD, TT, WS, VA, pumping, etc. I'm 40, 5'8", 160, with flat top, beard, tats & piercings. ☎ 5643.

Hairy Bear Plays A Little Ruff
RU turned on by combat, tit torture, sweat, watersports, wrestling, fighting? Me too. Late 40's, very hairy, mustache, WM, HIV- wants to play real hard with you. ☎ 5644.

Watersports!
GWM, 33, handsome, seeks uncut Latino, Asian, & white men, 25-35, for wet fun. I love piss, cum, and smelly cocks. Also love sucking cock & exchanging piss. ☎ 5645.

Human Vacuum Cleaner
Needed for short, hot aroma, fueled sessions with out of shape but hung & horny Black freak. please, no phones, novices or indirect phone numbers. ☎ 5646.

Like To Try Levi Water Sports?
I'm sexy GWM, 40+, HIV-, hairy, 160#, 5'10", handsome; love JO, water sports, exhibitionism in pants, shorts, etc.; You're GAM, handsome, HIV-; curious to learn. ☎ 5647.

It's Definitely The Cheese
GWM, 50, beefy, masculine bear seeks cheese forekins. Will also deep throat, & rim hot holes. Redheads, Islanders, Hispanic, Mid-Eastern, Asian, Russian, more than a weeks worth A++++. ☎ 5648.

Watersports, Young, Curious?
You: young, sexy, not likely to be trashy but you are, fantasies, you more top, bondage maybe, cats, maybe. Let's talk, me 30's goodlooking, lots of ideas!! ☎ 5649.

Asian Bondage, Feet, Foreskin
Seeking mature person to tie up novice slim, smooth Asian boy, to give him long foot tonguing, oral service, gadgets & exams, heels, than ride him from behind. Safe play only. ☎ 5650.

Bondage For Asians
WM, late 40's, will strip, tie you up, play with your cock/balls/tits & make you cum. Muscular a plus. ☎ 5545.

Hungry Oral Subm Bottom Wntd
By hot man, 58, 5'8", 130 lbs., good build, aggressive, verbal. Into hot masculine cut fits, domination, roll playing, sensual pleasures. Call if you're in good shape. ☎ 5740.

Santa Rosa Area Dildo Action
Attractive GWM bottom, exhibitionist sees tops for nasty dildo play. Interests include big tops, dirty talk, mirrors, SF and Sonoma county also. All calls returned. Let's play with my hole. ☎ 5741.

Hairy-Muscled Wrestler/Boxer
5'8", 158 lbs., hairy-muscled, skin-head wants buddies/opponents for no rules bards bare-assed in boots in private gym w/ring, tough enough! Also into leather, rope, cuffs, JO. ☎ 5744.

Gay Wheelchair Men
Looking for men in wheelchair that are very horny & need sex. You have fantasies you would like to perform on me. I'm a very horny bottom, plus 7", nice balls that need worship slud & hard. GWM, early 50's, 5'2", slim build. ☎ 5747.

Thirsty Cocksucker
Loves piss & cum. Stop by In Castro. Uncut A+. ☎ 5743.

Wntd: Fisting Top/Small Hands
My boy is slight and can't take my hand. Your expert help will be nicely reciprocated. Well supplied play room. Fun parties. ☎ 5745.

Daytime Asshole-Eater
"Get your asshole eaten by a pro!" ☎ 5746.

COUPLES

2 Hot Blond Guys
8" top and vers bottom with super throat & butt. Seeking studs with passionate fun attitudes. Hung 7" or bigger, under 44 and nice shape. ☎ 5549.

Sexy GAM Seeks GW Couples
Handsome GAM, 29, clean-cut, smooth-skinned seeks GW couples for hot sex. Let this boy next door type fulfill your wildest fantasies. Flondes a plus. ☎ 5563.

We Three Pee
Glding GWM couple, HIV+, 40's, with facial hair, one very thirsty, seek others for wet times in our hot tub, sling, & playroom. Top, bottom, versatile, singles, couples welcome. ☎ 5651.

OTHER

Wrestling-Sport Of Kings
6', 180#, Tarzan seeks macho guys for manly sport. Clean technique. No-body gets hurt. Test your manhood! Masculine friendly guy, good fun wrestling, my mat or beach. Jocks or nude. Body builder/Bears nude only. ☎ 5652.

Dutiful Companion Desired
Respectable, conservative gentleman is older & sadistic/masochistic. Private places in Healdsburg & SF. ☎ 5653.

Young Chicano Master
Chicano top, 21, very handsome student, seeks comfortable bottom who knows how to please master. Out only. ☎ 5654.

Looking For Activity Partners
Healthy HIV+ GWM, 40's, looking for wkday company for varied interest ranging from gardening to sports. Have car for day trips. Want companions for biking, museum visits & exploring. ☎ 5655.

Two-Free-Tickets & Trip To LA
See "Swan Lake" (erotic, all male) by GAM 36, attractive, gym-toned, seeking one guy to spend a weekend with (4/26) who's under 45, glding, in good shape, NS, open to all race. ☎ 5656.

Wanted: Black Or Hispanic Hot,
Hung, top who would shave my 29yo, 6'1", body each week & then poke my smooth shaven hole when he is finished. You should be 20-30 yo & in shape as I am. Uncut a big plus. ☎ 5657.

Seeking A Friend
Has anyone seen Geoff Y-B, a young PR boy, around town. If so please leave a message. ☎ 5749.

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MASSAGE



Zrazy is Carole Nelson and Maria Walsh.

Boogie down

by Deborah Peifer

Zrazy, *Come Out Everybody*, Pure Records

OK. I'll admit to being a complete sucker for a well-played tin whistle, and if tin whistles are made of tin, what do they make foghorns out of? But I digress. Delightful tin whistling is only one reason to enjoy *Come Out Everybody*, the U.S. debut album of the Irish duo, Zrazy (pronounced like crazy with a z). Singers/songwriters/musicians Maria Walsh and Carole Nelson offer an eclectic mix of songs that speak to the joys and agonies of lesbian love.

I was singularly touched by the poignant "Suburban Girl" who insists, "My head's in a whirl/I'm a suburban girl/And I really think that I'm dead cool."

"In a Word" is a lovely piece, with its moving refrain: "Would you like to stay with me/Would you like to play with me/Would you like to be with me/and be free." With its easy rhythm and powerful lyrics, "Come Out Everybody" is a song that should be featured at every pride march from now on.

As much as I enjoyed listening to Zrazy—and women who can sing well are a particular favorite of mine—I was struck by the notion that this music moves. What I'm about to say is in fact complimentary, although that may not be immediately apparent. When I needed to clean my apartment in a hurry last weekend, the CD I played was *Come Out Everybody*. I can't imagine anyone being able to sit still while this album is playing. I know that I was inspired to boogie as I dusted, a rare phenomenon. Zrazy is a real find. ▼

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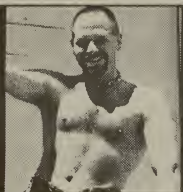
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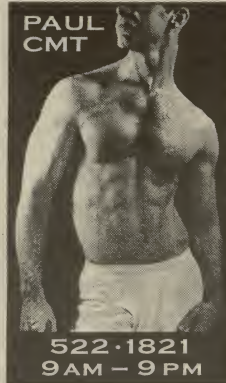
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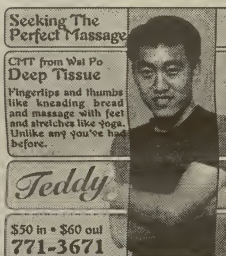
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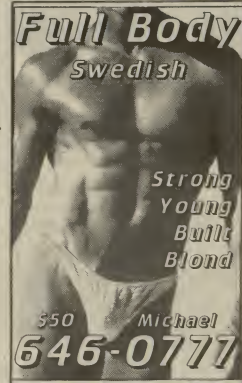
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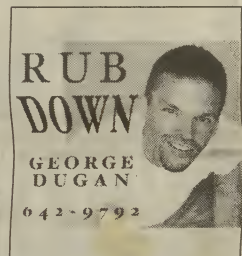
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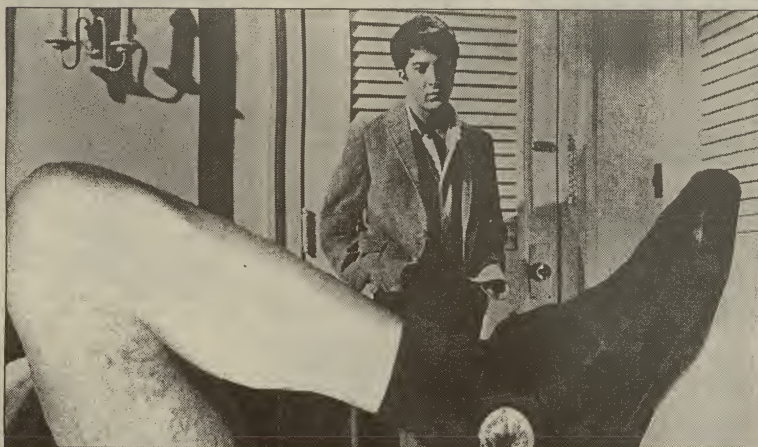


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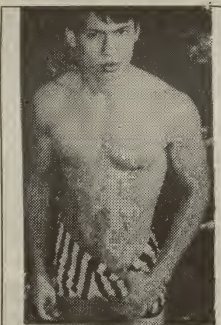
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Scent Markin' Gut Guzzlin' 313-6072

Friendly & Versatile

HOT TEXAN!!

Big Hairy Chest, 5'11", Deep Throat
Call Brett, Pgr# 303-MANLove (6265)

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23, 6', 180 lbs, 8", Russian/Irish
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Top gorgeous looks: handsome face, great bod, college student, 25 yrs of age, definitely in-shape. If you would like to have this service, call Chris @ (510) 465-8714 24 hours-Please leave a brief message if I'm not available.

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Need a helping hand? Slow+Easy+ Firm
I'm great with beginners thru advanced.
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Rock Hard 7" Cut Brown/Blue/Smooth
BEAUTIFUL BODY!
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ASIAN FEVER

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Well Hung In-Shape Top 273-1814
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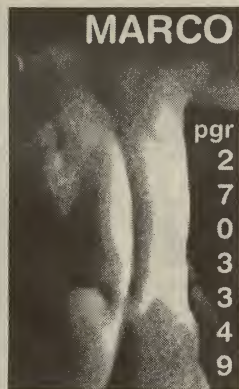
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24 hrs, 24 hrs, 24 hrs
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versatile Call anytime 837-8900
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MASON • 474-6786

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149 lbs, shaved, pierced, tattoo. Safe
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25 yr Old, 6', 175#
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6'•160 lbs•8" w/big balls•Defined
Nicely proportioned body•Masculine &
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Outcalls/Hotels \$80-\$100

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 Blue eyes, shaved head, 6'3", 165#
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 Blond
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 Hung 9" and the Hottest
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CLIFF
8x6 • 25yo
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operators are
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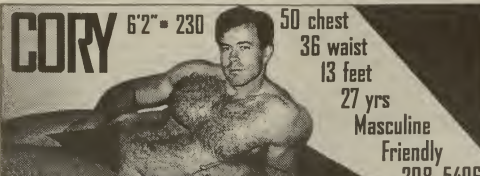


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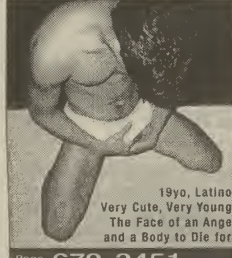
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19yo, Latino,
Very Cute, Very Young.
The Face of an Angel
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Page 679-3451 Out Only



ASIAN GO-GO BOY
Strip Show/True Fantasies, All Bay
Hui p(415) 313-9537, \$100 Out, Top

**EXTREMELY HANDSOME
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Masculine clean cut & yes versatile
French/Italian, dk thick hair, full Lips
very hot! Hung & tight Out Only
Bradly 201-1319

23yo, 5'8", 145#, 29w, 39c, smooth, cute

ASIAN GO-GO BOY
Strip Show/True Fantasies, All Bay
Hui p(415) 313-9537, \$100 Out, Top

**EXTREMELY HANDSOME
COLLEGE STUDENT**
Masculine clean cut & yes versatile
French/Italian, dk thick hair, full Lips
very hot! Hung & tight Out Only
Bradly 201-1319

Adam 38, 6'4", 195#, blind/blu, hairy
Handsome, clean-cut, hung, masculine
Day/Nite Page 207-8089 Visa/MC

Clean-cut Grad Student,
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Smooth, Lean, Muscular Body
Very Cute, Very Versatile.
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10" X 6" UNCUT
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SATISFYING 24 HRS.

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29yo
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Italian Stud, Black hair, Brn eyes,
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Complexion, smooth, clean cut with a
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Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs
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All Levels of Experience.
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5'10" 140lbs. cute, clean, riveting, sexy
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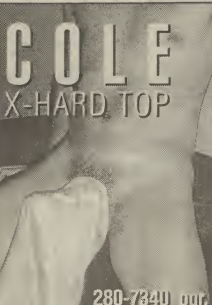
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baseball biceps, hard buffed
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Friendly Fun Clean and Discreet
HOT LEATHER BOY TOY
28, 5'10", 145#, slim build
7 thick inches and a sweet bubble
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Deep tight hot ass; 8X6; travel; groups;
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Rates adjust to time
10-15 minutes \$20 (in only)
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30 Min. & Up: \$40/in, \$60/Out
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6'3" 225# FIREMAN
28, very masc, mscl, & xxhandsome.
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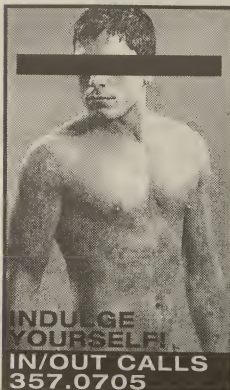
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Adam 38, 6'4", 195#, blind/blu, hairy
Handsome, clean-cut, hung, masculine
Day/Nite Page 207-8089 Visa/MC

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- 10 uncut inches
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9X6
FALCON MODEL
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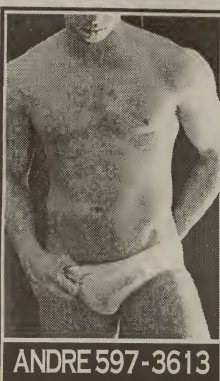
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Extremely Attractive

27 yrs
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BUILD, 8" UNCUT

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6'2"
8 1/2 x 6
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Perfect Legs and Ass

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Minimum \$10 charge
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CA 94103

Indicate
Type Style
Here ▼

X-Bold Stops Here ▼

Bold Stops Here ▼

Caps Stop Here ▼

Regular Stops Here ▼

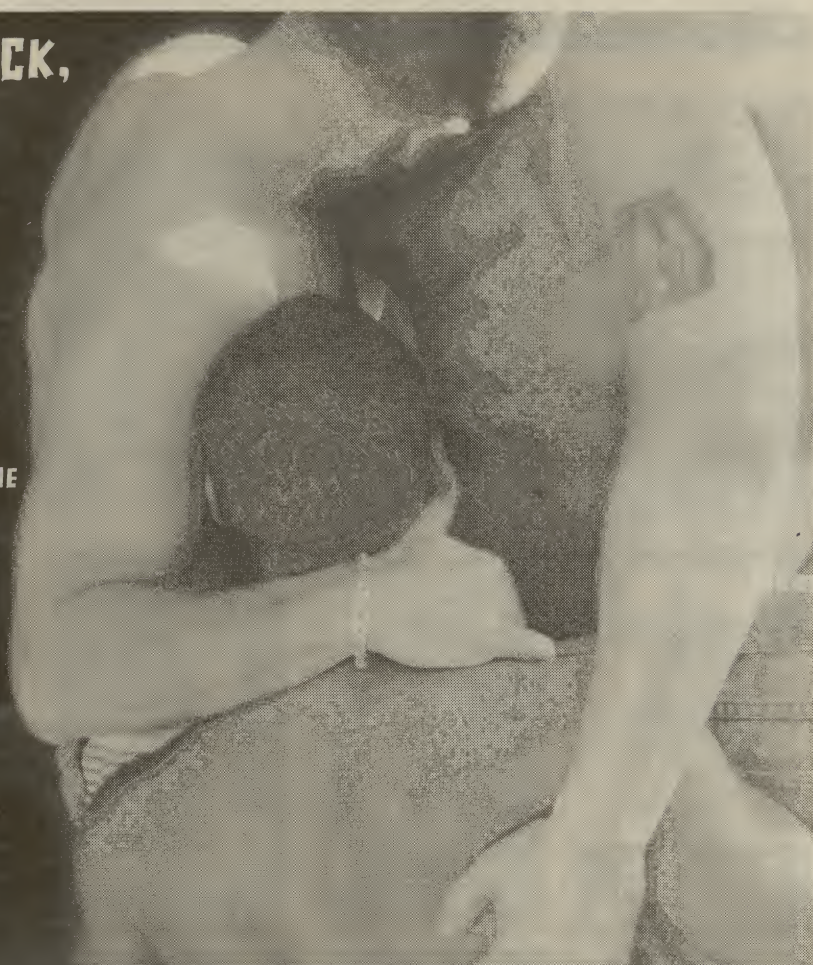
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MEET DICK...

**GET
DICK!**

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